- **SPORTS / A27**

Fil-Am wins singles, doubles in ITF tourney

- **ACROSS / A17**

Controversial ex-policeman shot dead in Bulacan

- **BUSINESS / B3-2**

Engineered eggplants to enter Philippine market

- **ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1**

Angel bids goodbye to Darna

GMA treats grandkids to trip to Disneyland

AFTER HOBNOBBING WITH LEADERS FROM the Pacific Rim, President Macapagal-Arroyo treated her grandchildren to a weekend with Mickey Mouse and the Lion King.

Ms Arroyo stopped at Hong Kong Disneyland on Sunday for a private visit with her family en route home from the annual

GMA TREATS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

P100 bill with GMA's name misspelled still good–BSP

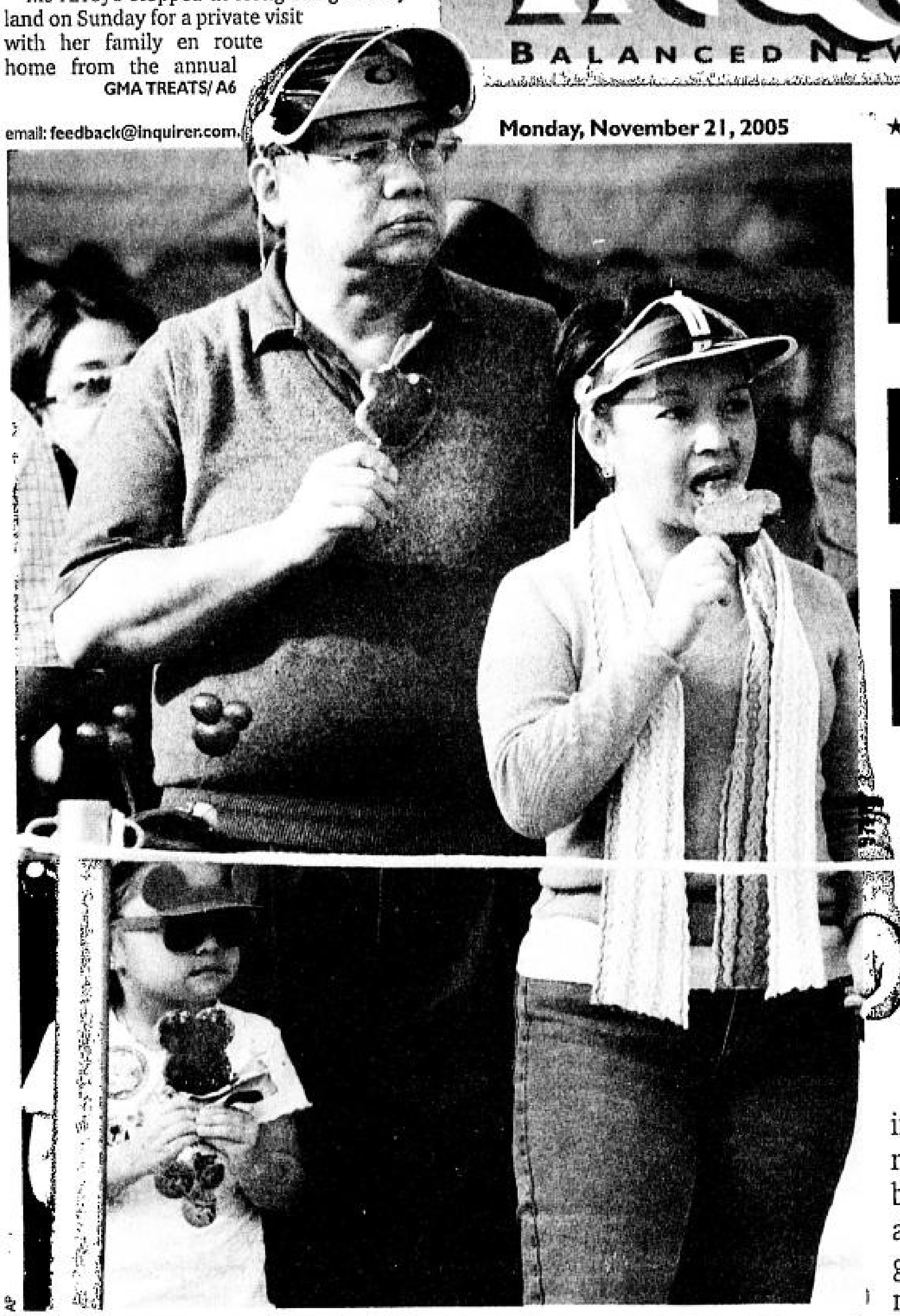
By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

LIMITED EDITION
PANG KOLEKSYON!

IF YOU'RE HOLDING A crisp P100 bill with President Macapagal-Arroyo's name misspelled as "Arrovo," count yourself as

P100 BILL/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, November 21, 2005 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 346 P18 website: www.inq7.net



AP

HOLDING popsicles, President Arroyo, her husband Mike and one of their grandchildren watch a parade in Hong Kong's Disneyland after she attended the Apec meet in South Korea.

NPA rebs use land mines, kill 9 soldiers

AFP slams Geneva pact violation

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Dona Pazzibugan
in Manila

ILOILO CITY—IN their bloodiest attack in a year, communist rebels using land mines blew up an Army truck and then raked it with gunfire, killing at least nine soldiers and wounding 20 others, the military said yesterday.

The Armed Forces condemned what it said was the growing use by the New People's Army (NPA) of a weapon banned by the Geneva Convention on war.

The impact of the blasts lifted the truck off the ground, throwing off many soldiers, and caused it to turn around so that its front faced the opposite direction when it landed, a local radio station said.

The attack occurred Saturday evening in Calinog town in Iloilo. Early on Sunday, in Quezon province, another NPA unit shot dead a policeman due to retire next year and wounded three others in a battle that shattered the windows of nearby houses, police said.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the series of continuing guerrilla tactical offensives in different parts of the country "were the contributions of the NPA to the immediate downfall of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime."

"More, bigger attacks will be launched by our Red guerrillas in the coming days. They are already in position," he said.

NPA REBS/ A5

A POLICEMAN carefully handles two improvised land mines found in a cargo truck following an attack by communist rebels in Tiaong town in Quezon.

Olongapo folk view rape case with mixed feelings

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—A WOMAN WHO WAS abused twice by American sailors says Olongapo is not a kind venue for the 22-year-old Filipino woman seeking justice after allegedly being gang-raped by six US Marines.

The 46-year-old woman said city residents could neither wholly offer sympathy nor objectively relate to the Nov. 1 rape incident in the Subic Bay Freeport at the conclusion of the RP-US counterterrorism exercises.

"People here have mixed thoughts on the case," said Minda, not her real name.

"Surely, there would be sympathies for the woman because she's a Filipino, but you can't expect all of them to give her moral support because many depended on the base for a living for a long, long time," she told the INQUIRER in an interview at her house in a slum area in Banicain here.

The preliminary investigation of the case

OLONGAPO/ A8

Sex rap filed vs Neda official

By Nelson F. Flores

AN ALLEGED ROMEO AT THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is in hot water for sending text jokes to and making sexual advances on a subordinate.

The Office of the Ombudsman has filed with the Sandiganbayan sexual harassment charges against Jose Romeo Escandor, a Neda regional director in Cebu City.

Escandor was indicted on Nov. 14 following a complaint filed by Ruth Cruz, a Neda chief economic development specialist in Cebu.

Records showed that Escandor was "maliciously touching her hand, telling her he missed her and wanted to have sexual relations with her, sending her sex jokes with graphic pictures through her e-mail and sending her SMS [text] messages with suggestive remarks," the Office of the Ombudsman said.

It said such acts resulted in an "intimidating,

SEX RAP/ A21

Teach here first, DepEd urges migrating teachers

By Alcuin Papa

TEACH YOUR OWN FIRST BEFORE teaching others.

This was the challenge posed by the Department of Education (DepEd) to Filipino teachers who are thinking of migrating to the United States.

Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo told reporters recently that teachers—particularly those who had undergone training and won awards—should ensure there was a "transfer of knowledge" to local students before they began to think about leaving the country.

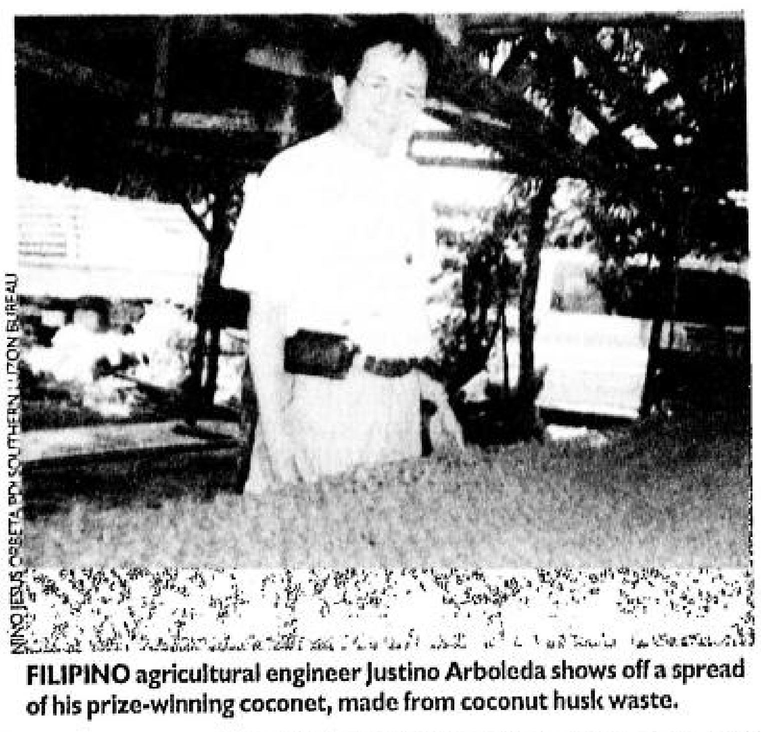
Hidalgo made the plea in the wake of reports that the United States had started recruiting local teachers to fill an annual US requirement of 200,000 new teachers, threatening to exacerbate the worsening "brain drain" in the Philippines.

She said suggestions that a mandatory period be imposed on teachers to render service in public schools around the country before they went abroad was a good idea to arrest the "brain drain."

Hidalgo said such a mandatory imposition on teachers would be similar to the existing requirement for local nurses who are required to practice their professions in the country first before going abroad.

However, she admitted that in the

TEACH/ A4



NIÑO JESUS ORBETA PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

FILIPINO agricultural engineer Justino Arboleda shows off a spread of his prize-winning coconet, made from coconut husk waste.

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL GRASS-ROOTS PROJECT

Pinoy's coconet tops BBC World Challenge

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—AGRICULTURAL engineer Justino Arboleda of the Philippines won the first prize in the First World Challenge contest sponsored by BBC World television in London on Nov. 17 for his soil erosion control net or coconet.

Coconet, made from waste coconut husk, was adjudged the best environmental grass-roots project in the world. It was among 456 entries from 90 countries.

Malta, which introduced a biodiesel product, took the second prize, while Vanuatu was in third place for its rechargeable battery.

From 12 finalists, the field was cut down to three.

Fifty percent of one's score was given by the judges and the other 50 percent by votes cast on the Internet, according to Arboleda's wife Julie. She, however, could not give the exact number of the Internet votes her husband received.

Arboleda, who is still in London, told the INQUIRER in a text message that he received the award at 7 p.m. (London time) on Nov. 17, [2 a.m. on Nov. 18 in the Philippines]. He also received a cash prize of $20,000.

The winners will be featured by the BBC in a special program on Dec. 3 and 4 and by Newsweek magazine in its Dec. 3 issue, according to the agricultural engineer.

Arboleda said winning first prize was a great honor for the country.

"With the world recognition, it would be very easy for us to promote our cocofiber products throughout the world," he said.

He expressed confidence that increased demand for coconet would help alleviate poverty in the country because more jobs would be created. He said demand for coconut materials would also benefit thousands of poor Filipino coconut farmers.

Coconet is manufactured by Juboken Enterprise, which Arboleda owns.

His coconut husk business was featured by the INQUIRER in January. It has provided jobs for at least 1,650 families in Bicol and other parts of the country.

About 800 families have benefited from the venture in Albay, 400 in Mindanao, 150 in Aklan and 300 in Southern Leyte.

PINOY'S/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms while Visayas and Mindanao will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/11/21/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Rains and Gusty Winds	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
		Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains and Gusty Winds	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
		Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Pols, traders blamed for eco problems

By Blanche S. Rivera

POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN, ALLEGEDLY behind the poaching, overfishing and logging, are among the root causes of the Philippines' environmental problems, an officer of the European Commission in the Philippines said.

The European Commission, the biggest donor of grants for environmental projects in the country, expressed disappointment at the slow turnaround of the Philippines' degraded resources even after 30 years of aid.

An evaluation of the "root causes of environmental problems and why [the Philippines] has not been that successful after 30 years of assistance" found that politicians and businessmen were among the three main reasons, EC program officer Juan Echanove said in his presentation during the reforestation workshop sponsored by the Haribon Society at the Imperial Palace Suites Thursday night.

"Politicians and businessmen are often behind the poaching, overfishing and logging," he said.

A case in point was the logging concession recently granted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to a firm owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, which has stirred up adverse reactions from Church and environmental groups.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor allowed Enrile's San Jose Timber Corp. to cut trees in a 95,770-ha area covered by its timber license agreement. The senator's logging area falls within the strict protection zone of the Samar Island Nature Park.

Pulling the plug

Sources said Global Environment Facility, a major funder of the $12.8-million Samar Island Biodiversity Project, was inclined to pull the plug on the next phase of the project if logging resumes.

"It's quite unfortunate but there's a certain pessimism on part of the donor community because there's still a lot to [be done in terms of] governance and transparency," Echanove said.

The EC, manager of the European Union's 25 member-states, has poured in at least 70 million euros or some P4.5 billion into the Philippines for conservation projects, research and training, and rural and urban resources management in the last decade.

Some projects were either wholly or partially funded by the EC over the years as part of its poverty-reduction efforts. In some cases, the Philippines served as the base and secretariat for EC-funded projects for Southeast Asian nations.

Migration and population

Echanove named two other reasons for the low impact and sustainability of environmental projects in the Philippines: Migration and population pressure and slash-and-burn practices.

Migration led to the introduction of the same inappropriate practices in the countryside, while slash-and-burn continued to deplete the rich biodiversity of the country, he said.

In a review of its environmental projects in the Philippines, the EC pinned down much of the problems on institutions such as the DENR, the lead agency in charge of environmental protection.

Conflict of interest

The review team consistently found that the DENR had a "very poor" reputation among local governments and other departments in terms of policy development and implementation, law enforcement, data collection and provision of environmental services.

The experts also noted the conflict of interest in the legal mandate of the DENR, which is in charge of the conservation of natural resources and the granting of logging and mining concessions.

"This has helped divide the institution into two factions, exacerbated by central government policies that actively promote mining and/or logging, such as the President's 10-point plan," the EC evaluation's executive summary said.

While the team found that EC projects in the Philippines were effective, it said the projects had produced little long-term impact and attitude change in the central government.

"The overall conclusion was that sustainability remains a central problem because, although there are mechanisms in place to facilitate the flow of information to decision-makers ... they have not been able to correct the haphazard way policy decisions are taken nor the way funds are allocated," the EC review team said.

The review was done in March by one international and one local expert commissioned by the EC. The findings were presented to Defensor, DENR officials and representatives of the EU member-states in April.

GMA meets with world leaders

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S meeting on the side with eight world leaders in the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (Apec) in Busan, South Korea, yielded commitments of support for Philippine programs and even a request from Russia for Manila's support for its bid to join the World Trade Organization.

In his View from the Palace column, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Arroyo did not only meet with US President George W. Bush but also hobnobbed with South Korea President and Apec summit host Roh-Moo-hyun, Malaysia Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Indonesia Prime Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In Ms Arroyo's meeting with Bush, the US president expressed concern about the situation in Burma (Myanmar), Bunye said.

"President Arroyo agreed to support efforts in the United Nations, particularly in the Security Council, where the Philippines is currently a nonpermanent member, to help spur democratic reforms in Myanmar," Bunye said.

The two leaders also talked about their mutual concerns on security. Bush, according to Bunye, was satisfied "with the strength of the intelligence exchange between the Philippines and the US, the capture of Abu Sayyaf camps and the recent conviction of the Valentine's Day bombers."

President Arroyo had "fruitful exchanges" with Roh, who is expected to visit Manila next month.

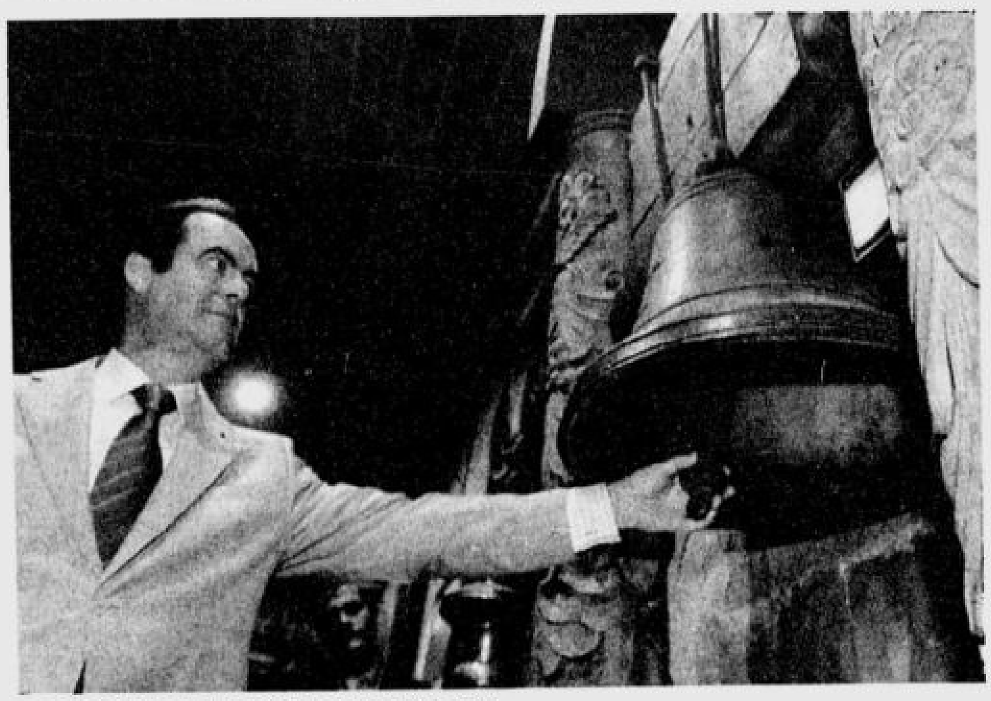
Bunye said Roh would sign key economic and investment agreements during his visit here.

Malaysia's Badawi, Bunye said, vowed to continue his country's support for the Philippine peace process as the third-party facilitator and head of the international truce monitoring team.

Bunye said that Brunei also committed continued support to Manila as a member of the international monitoring team. Sultan Bolkiah also told Ms Arroyo that his country would support efforts to build madrasas in Mindanao.

Indonesia's Yudyohono expressed support for Manila's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, according to Bunye. Yudyohono also told Ms Arroyo that Indonesia would continue to be a partner in the Philippines' interfaith dialogue initiatives.

President Arroyo and Singapore's prime minister explored ways to expand the two countries' antipiracy cooperation. Lee also pledged that his country would work closely with Manila in protecting the rights, welfare and safety of Filipinos working in the city-state.



SOUNDING THE CALL VS TERROR
Spain's Defense Minister Jose Bono rings a two-century-old bell at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila, where he heard Mass yesterday. Bono is in town to discuss antiterror measures with President Arroyo and other government officials. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA proposes ₱2.5-B outlay to fight bird flu

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS proposed a P2.5-billion war chest to strengthen the country's defenses against the bird flu virus, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

It said Ms Arroyo agreed to allocate the amount to support the bird flu protection program under Agriculture Secretary and newly installed bird flu czar Domingo F. Panganiban.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippines is one of three countries, along with Singapore and Brunei, that remains free of bird flu.

Panganiban said the special budget would be submitted to both houses of Congress and the Department of Budget and Management for approval as an addendum to the DA-submitted outlay of P15.7 billion in the national budget.

"The budget will be used to upgrade and expand laboratory facilities to detect the bird flu virus. The country already has available 13 laboratory facilities in different regions nationwide, but we need to expand these as we are monitoring 40 areas, including places most frequently visited by migratory birds," Panganiban said.

"In time of crisis, to prevent the spread of the virus, medicines for the immunization of animals in affected areas should be ready at all times as a preventive quick response," he said.

More medicines should be made available in coordination with the Department of Health to protect humans from the deadly virus in case it mutates and transfers to human beings, Panganiban said.

Ms Arroyo was in Busan, South Korea, last week to discuss the threat of a bird flu pandemic with fellow leaders in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum.

She spoke on how the country's protection strategy was working against the avian influenza, and offered the Philippines as a model in the fight against bird flu.

Staid Bunye shows why he's no Frank Sinatra

By Christian V. Esguerra

BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA (VIA PLDT)—Ol' blue eyes is back.

And he goes by the name of Ignacio Bunye, press secretary turned crooner, who serenaded members of Philippine media during a break in the just-concluded Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit here.

Bunye dropped his usually defensive mien, crooning a Frank Sinatra classic "Strangers in the Night" with Cerge Remonde, Malacañang Mass Media Group head, as backup singer.

Bunye hung out for three hours with the press people at Mijin, a popular bar frequented by artists and foreigners in this city's harbor district on Friday.

His song finished, he segued into another Sinatra classic and karaoke favorite, "My Way" delighting the already inebriated media people, including those from ABS-CBN, lately the target of criticism of Malacañang.

"This is the first time I've seen him like this. Usually he's very uptight," one reporter said of Bunye.

Candaba (Pampanga) Mayor Jerry Pelayo, who came with the President's party, suggested that Bunye hold regular "bonding" sessions with reporters.

"I think it is important for public officials to establish rapport with media," he told the INQUIRER.

But at 10:30 p.m., it was beddie-bye for Bunye.

The President who was staying at the nearby Paradise Hotel needed her spokesperson bright-eyed and bushy-tailed the next morning, the last day of the Apec summit. Ms Arroyo was set to address fellow economic leaders on human security issues such as counterterrorism and bird flu.

The following day, the old Bunye was back. He made himself scarce to the press, withholding important Apec documents involving the President. It was only after much protestation from the media that he acceded to a brief interview.

Bunye left this cold, clean city of boyish-looking cops with Ms Arroyo and her daughter Luli on Saturday afternoon. Together with some members of the Philippine delegation, they flew to Hong Kong where the President was scheduled to meet with Filipino businessmen and workers.

The President was scheduled to be back in Manila today.

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House, Senate Cha-cha battle looms

THE HOUSE OF REPresentatives will force the vote this week on a resolution seeking to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Constitution and shift the country to a parliamentary system of government, Senate sources said yesterday.

The sources said the House leadership would set the vote on Charter change ahead of the plenary vote on the 2006 national budget.

"The House will take a plenary vote on Cha-cha before it enacts the 2006 General Appropriations Act because a near complete [attendance] is needed for a Cha-cha vote which cannot be mustered unless the vote is taken close to the budget vote where almost everyone is present," a Senate official privy to the House schedule said.

Needed votes

Sen. Joker Arroyo believes the House can muster the three-fourths vote, or 177 congressmen, needed to approve the Cha-cha initiative being pushed by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and former President Fidel V. Ramos and endorsed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Measured against the 150 congressmen who voted against impeachment, 177 votes is entirely possible because even the 50-plus congressmen who voted for impeachment this time will join the Cha-cha vote," Arroyo said.

By approving the Cha-cha resolution, the sources said, the House will be forcing the Senate to decide if it would go along with the House or kill the initiative.

Aware of the Senate opposition to Cha-cha, House leaders had said that if the Senate did not agree to Cha-cha, the House would go it alone.

Options

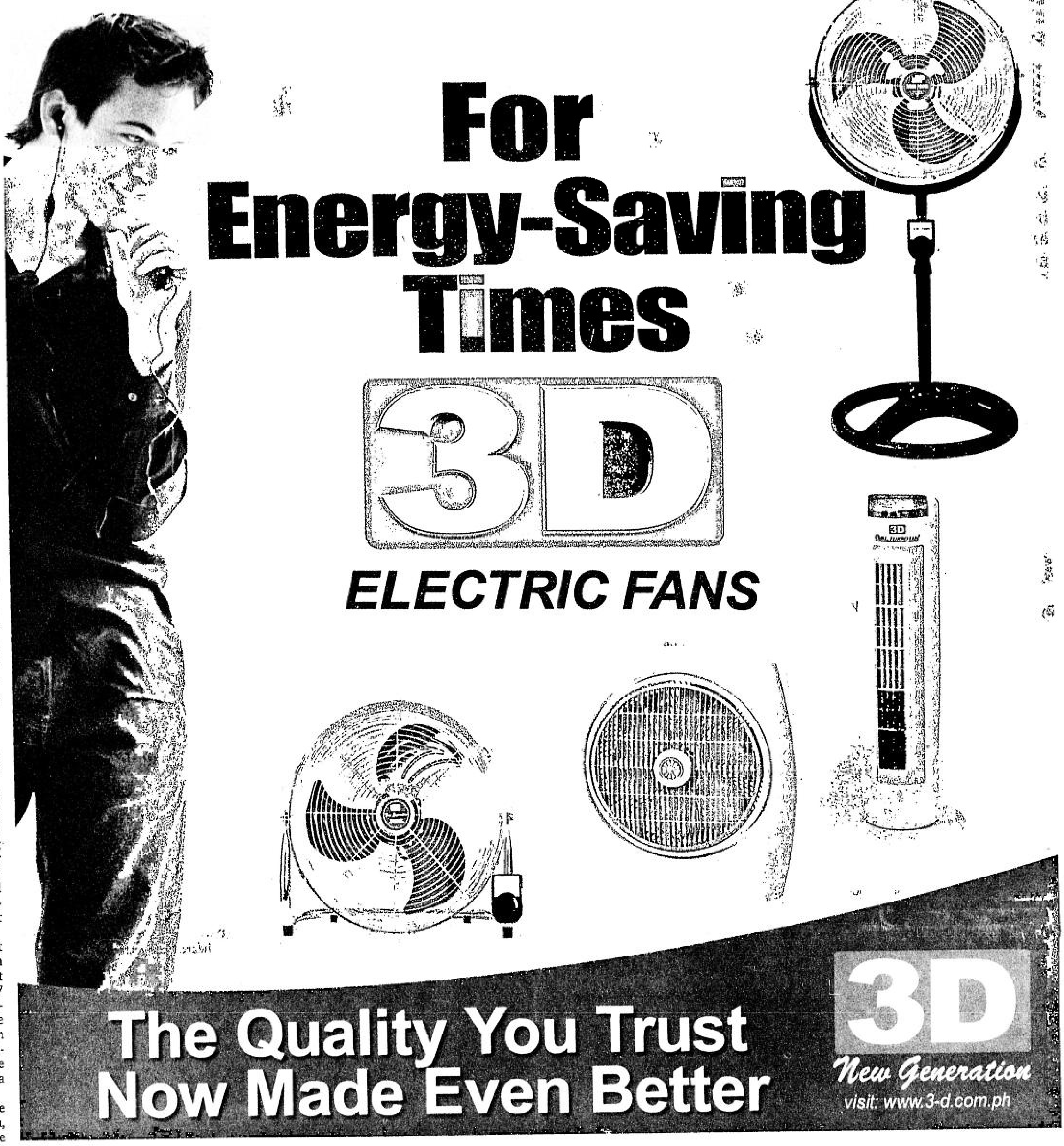
Once approved, the House will transmit its resolution to the Senate where it will go to the committee on constitutional amendments chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon.

Arroyo said the Senate committee had four options.

It could recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence, which would practically kill the initiative, or file its own resolution which, if adopted by the plenary, would bring about a Senate-House bicameral conference committee. Or it could sit on the measure and let it die a natural death.

If the Senate plenary takes a vote, three-fourths or 18 senators would be needed to approve the resolution. With 23 senators, it would take only six of them to kill the initiative.

"As matters stand now, it is so easy to collect the six senators to vote against Cha-cha," Arroyo said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*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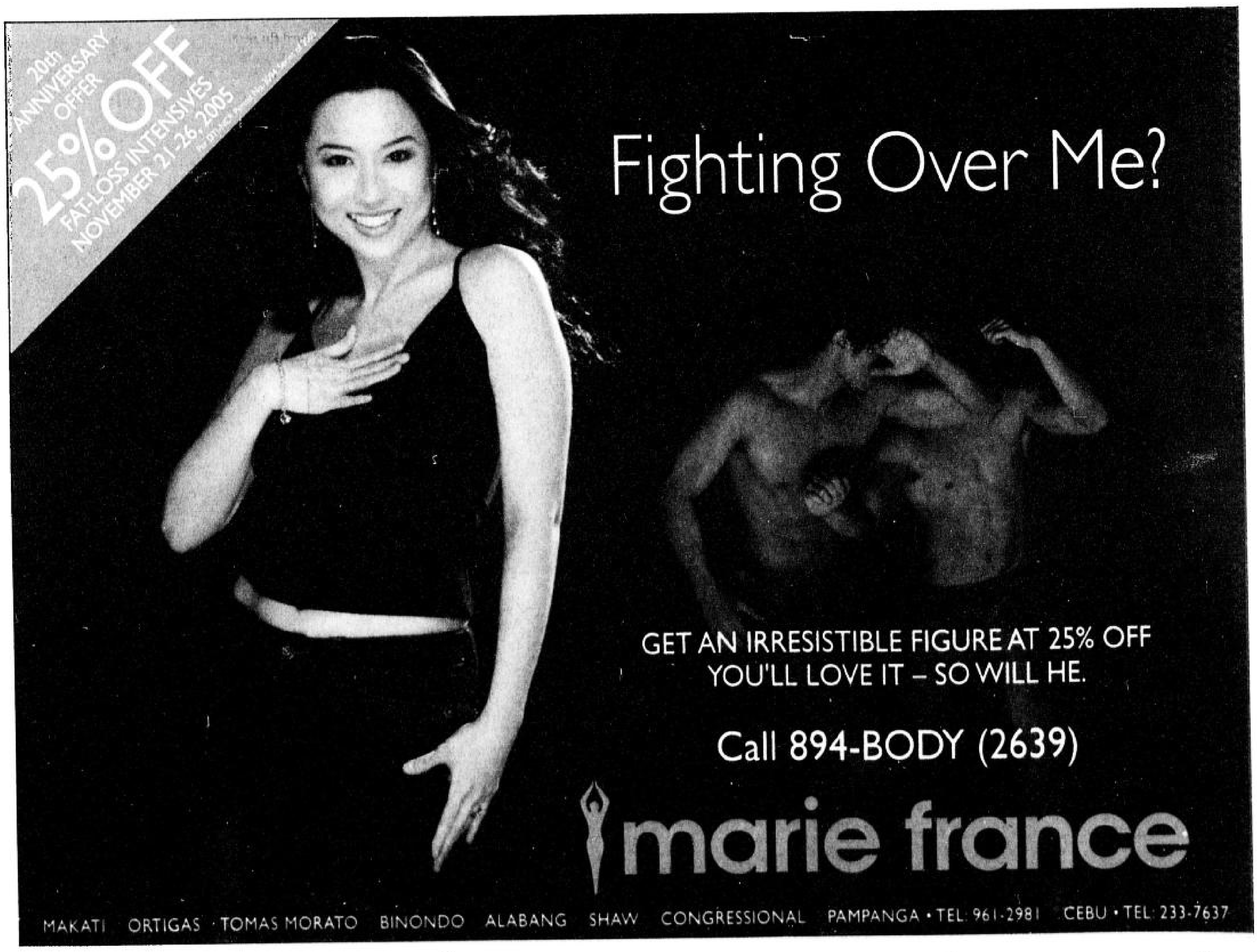
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Teach here first, DepEd urges migrating teachers

From page A1

absence of any mandatory rule to this effect, the DepEd could not prevent teachers from leaving the country in search of "greener pastures."

During the last three-day Educators' Congress in Davao City, Education Assistant Secretary Camilo Montesa told reporters that teachers were committed enough to teach despite the low salaries.

Problem of favoritism

But another factor that could add to the teachers' desire to leave the country is the lack of career advancement because of favoritism, he said.

Montessa also said that the present salaries of Filipino teachers were only a fraction of what other countries paid their teachers.

"Here teachers receive only P7,000 to P9,000 in salaries but they are paid five or six times higher when they go to teach in Singapore or in the United States," Montessa said.

"Definitely, you can't compete with those kinds of numbers."

Supply and demand

But he said the education department was not alarmed by the brain drain since the supply of teachers in the country could still meet the demand.

"It's really more of a challenge for us to be able to harness the competitive efforts against the lure of money," he said.

"It's also hard to live in a foreign country so we are working on the nonmonetary benefits for the teachers," Montesa said.

The problem, Montesa said, is the quality of teachers.

As a solution, the DepEd is starting to conduct a series of trainings for teachers to sharpen their skills in the three core subjects—English, Math and Science.

Pinoy's coconet tops BBC Challenge

From page A1

Arboleda has also developed other uses for the different waste products generated by his coconut farm. These include doormats, stuffing for car seats and mattresses, and fertilizer (made from coconut dust).

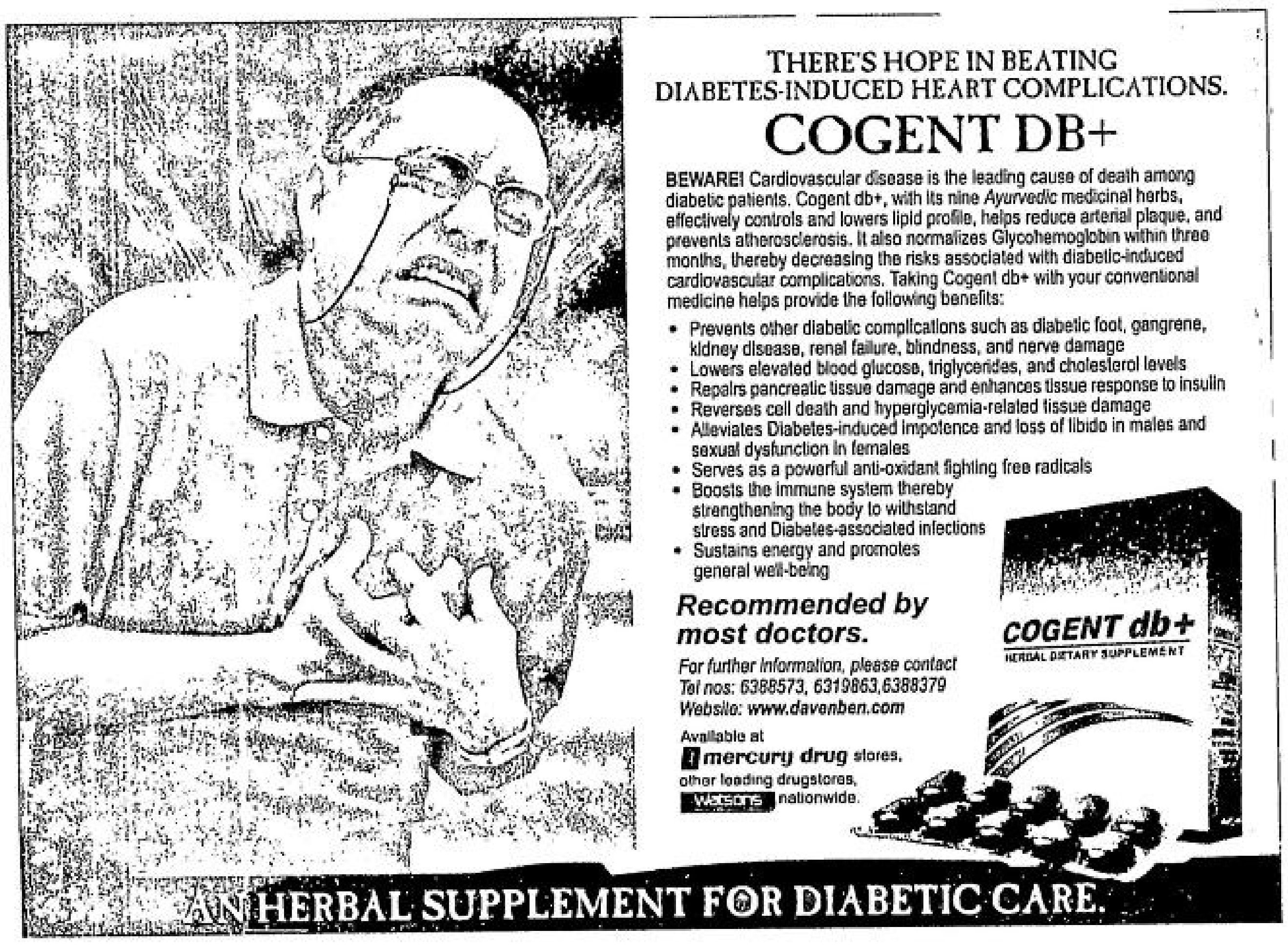
Before Arboleda bagged first prize in the BBC World Challenge, he was cited for excellence in export by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Dec. 13 last year during the Golden Shell Award held in Metro Manila.

Arboleda's wife said she was very proud of her husband and would like to thank the Filipinos for voting for him.

She said it was Agnes Sarmiento, who told her that she had read the INQUIRER story about Arboleda and his coconet project, who nominated the coconet project in the BBC World Challenge.

Arboleda was expected to arrive in Manila last night, Julie said.

THE FILIPINO inventor receives his award during the BBC-sponsored ceremony in London. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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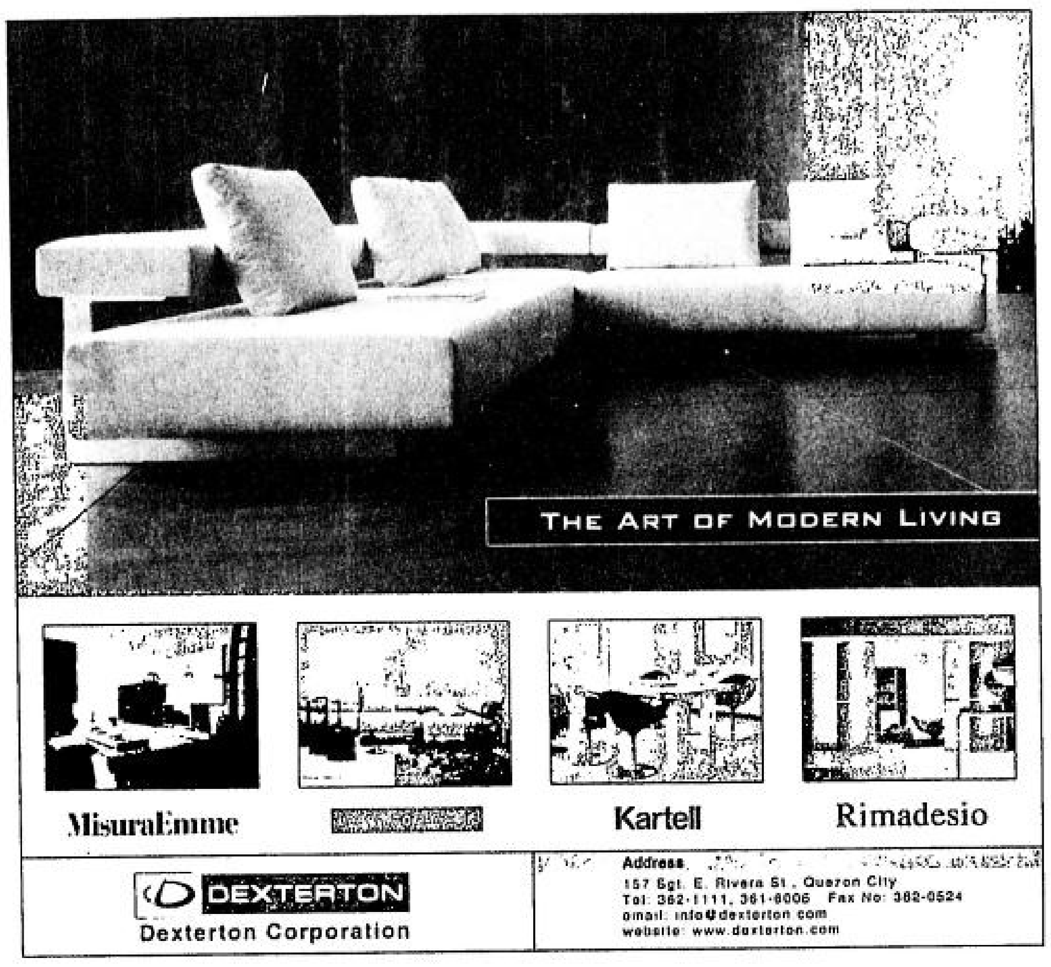

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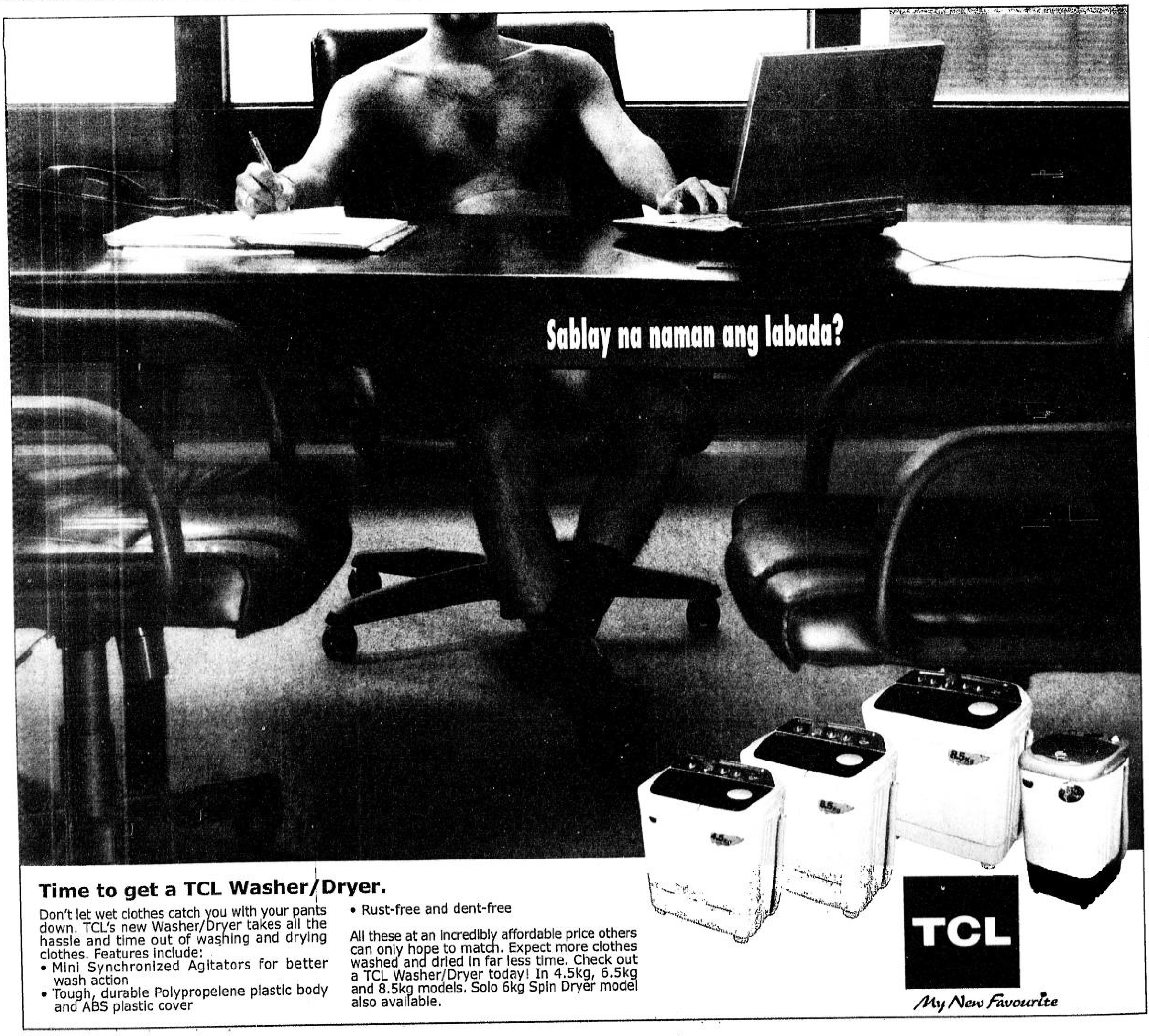

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NPA rebels use land mines, kill 9 soldiers

From page A1

Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, Army spokesperson, said the rebels "have been using land mines for a long time now, but lately there's a high incidence because they're really procuring explosives."

"The recent attack by members of the communist NPA using land mines indicates a shift in their usual conduct of combat operations and is a clear manifestation of their terroristic nature," Bacarro said.

Signatory to convention

The spokesperson of the Iloilo-based Army 3rd Infanry Division denounced the attack.

"The use of land mines is no longer authorized under United Nations laws," Maj. Lyndon Sollesta said.

The Philippines is a signatory to the Geneva Convention which bans antipersonnel land mines. The NPA has refused to sign any agreement on the nonuse of land mines on the grounds that this would favor the Armed Forces, a lawyer for an international group campaigning for their ban, has told the INQUIRER.

The military said the NPA also used land mines in an Oct. 9 ambush in Misamis Occidental, in which five soldiers and three civilians were killed. Two soldiers were wounded by a rebel-planted land mine in Sultan Kudarat in February.

Scout Rangers

The losses in Iloilo were believed to be the highest in a single incident suffered by government forces in a year. Also in November last year, NPA rebels killed 10 soldiers in San Rafael, Bulacan.

The casualties in the Iloilo incident included troops of the elite First Scout Ranger Battalion under Lt. Col. Noel Buan, who was held captive for 16 months by the NPA until he was released in April 2001.

The casualties were also the biggest suffered by soldiers in a rebel attack in the Visayas in the last two years, the Army's Central Command said.

Sollesta said the soldiers were in two trucks returning from combat operations when attacked at around 8 p.m. in Barangay Mabilingan, 7 km from the Calinog town proper.

As the trucks carrying around 60 soldiers each slowed down in an uphill area, the rebels detonated two mines that hit the first vehicle, an Elf truck. Then the rebels, numbering 30 to 40, opened fire.

Hourlong fight

Soldiers in the second vehicle, an M-35 military truck, fired back, triggering an hourlong battle.

"They were also able to deliver a heavy volume of fire toward the enemy," Sollesta said. "We believe they (rebels) also suffered casualties."

All of the casualties were on board the Elf truck.

The military said the truck was a total wreck and that the casualties were victims of the blasts.

The explosions opened two craters in the ground, two meters wide and a meter deep.

Sollesta said the land mines were "command-detonated," exploding only when triggered, unlike the "non-command-detonated" type, which explode when stepped on.

'Punish GMA'

The rebels were believed to be under the NPA's Jose Percival Estocada Jr. Command.

Troops have launched a pursuit and established blocking positions on withdrawal routes.

The Communist Party of the Philippines had issued directives to NPA units nationwide to intensify attacks against government troops.

The statements posted on the CPP and NPA website (www.philippinerevolution.org) said the attacks were meant "to punish" the Arroyo administration for worsening the lives of the people through its policies.

Peace talks between Manila and the communists ground to a halt last year.

Sollesta identified the fatalities as Staff Sergeants Alexander Luiz, Melquidez Montemayor and Paterno Villorente, and Private First Class Rosebert No-ol, all of the 47th Infantry Battalion.

The others were Sgt. Rommel Panes, Cpl. Mario Pelayo and Privates First Class James Brian Angeles and Dives Villamor of the FSRB.

Clash in Tiaong

The 20 wounded soldiers were all Scout Rangers. They were Privates First Class Rodrigo Agod, Rodel Jacud, Michael Camatuhan, Carlito James, William Onias, Richard Baslot, Joel Ryan Belmonte, Nazzer Abellar, Michael Fernandez, Raul Fuentes, Erben Gerona, Adonis Cabalhin, Raymund Lim, Christian Ventura and Romy Bascuma.

Also wounded were Corporals Mario Pascua, Ronnie Espiritu, Dante Elegores and Joel Octaviano and SSgt. Gil Delfin.

Chief Insp. Rancer Evasco, Tiaong police chief, identified the casualty in the Quezon clash as PO3 Clarito Ilao. The encounter occurred in a village along Maharlika Highway in Tiaong.

Wounded were SPO1 Liberato Garcia, PO3 Jimmy Bendo and PO1 Ronel Lamadrid.

Of the six-man mobile patrol team, only PO2 Enrico Roldan and PO1 Ryan Arenas were unhurt in the gun battle.

Rebels wounded

Police said no casualty was reported on the side of the NPA, but bloodstains were found in a van and a cargo truck used by the rebels.

Rosal said that some NPA guerrillas had also been wounded.

Evasco said the police had received information that a group of armed men in fatigue uniforms aboard a Kia van had commandeered a trailer truck and he then dispatched a mobile patrol to search for the van.

The police spotted the van parked along the highway at around 3 a.m. Also parked nearby was an Isuzu trailer and another Isuzu open cargo truck.

When the policemen disembarked from their vehicle, the rebels opened fire, killing Ilao on the spot.

Driver's story

Melchor Gordon, driver of the trailer that had been fully loaded with copra, said the rebels led him to a parked cargo truck along the highway some 150 meters from the Tiaong police station.

"The truck had mechanical trouble. The NPA ordered me to tow it," he said.

After pulling the truck for about a kilometer, Gordon said the rebels ordered him to stop and untie the rope used in pulling the vehicle.

"They told me that they would get another truck. I was surprised to see a lot of armed men aboard the cargo truck that I towed. That was the time the police patrol arrived. When the shooting started, I rushed to an open bodega and hid," the driver said.

Police recovered from the cargo truck two improvised land mines, three grenades, assorted ammunition for high-powered firearms, medical kits and personal belongings.

Senior Supt. Vicente Caragan Jr. of the Quezon police said the NPA group that ambushed the policemen was the same group that attacked the Globe cellular tower in Lucban and Sampaloc towns on Saturday.

With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and PDI Research

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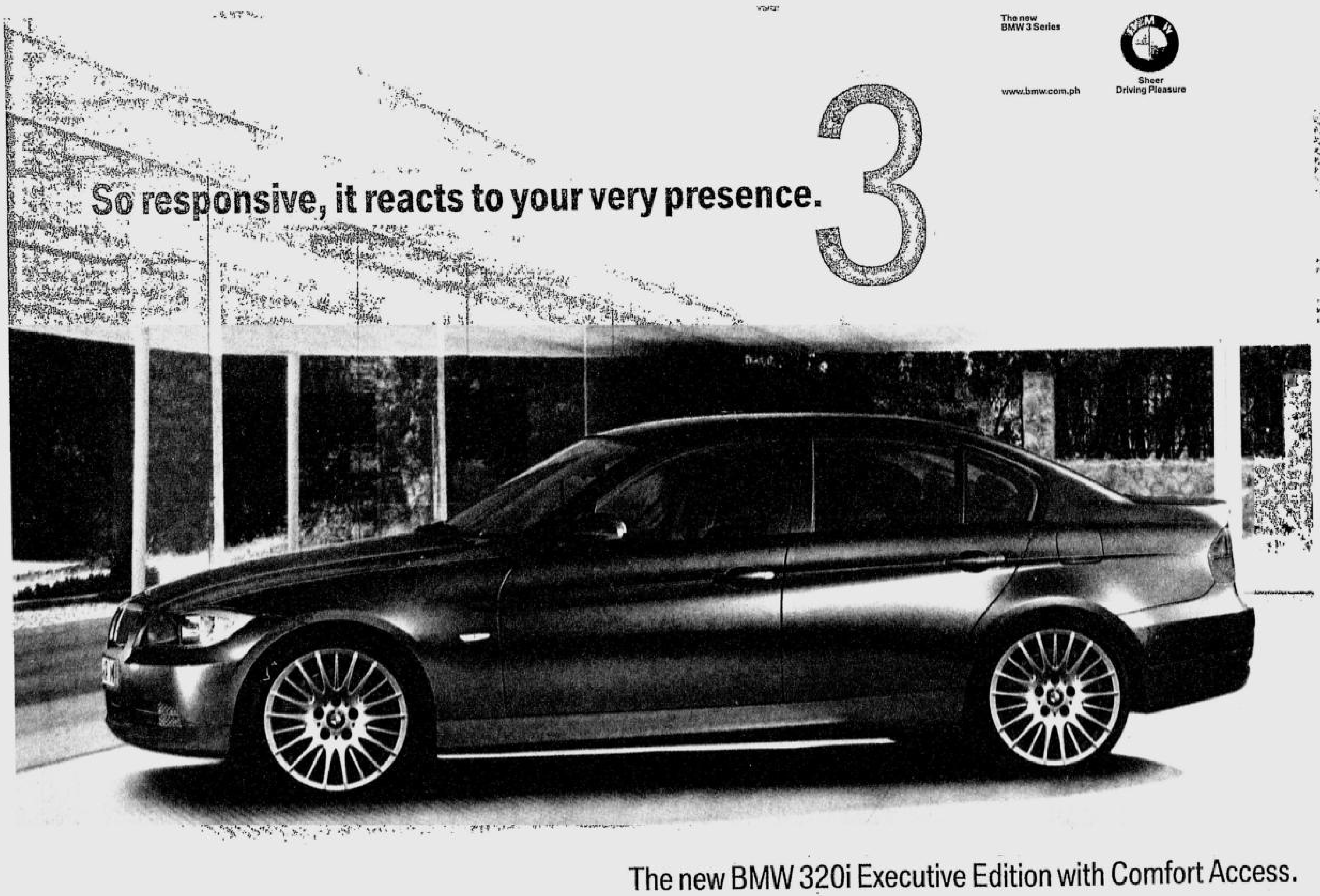

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GMA treats grandkids to trip to Disneyland

From page A1

two-day Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Busan, South Korea.

With grandchildren Mikaela Gloria, Eva Victoria and Eva Angelique, the President and her entourage tried out the Dumbo the Flying Elephant ride and the Jungle River Cruise.

They also watched shows like Mickey's PhilharMagic, featuring 3-D versions of Disney cartoon characters, and the "Festival of the Lion King," a Broadway-style musical.

She also chatted with Filipino visitors at the park, which opened two months ago.

Reunited

Ms Arroyo arrived in Hong Kong on Saturday evening, just hours after the Apec forum ended. She was to return home this morning, her office said. Her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and other family members were to join her.

Last week, Ms Arroyo was reunited with her corruption-tainted husband, who had been away on voluntary exile for the past three months. He had been accused of influence-peddling and receiving illegal gambling kickbacks.

But Mike Arroyo faces no charges and has denied taking gambling payoffs. The accusations are the subject of an ongoing congressional inquiry.

Hong Kong Disneyland is Walt Disney Co.'s 11th theme park. It features two resort hotels on a bay surrounded by mountains on Lantau, the territory's largest island.

Ms Arroyo managed to squeeze in some meetings with the Filipino community in Hong Kong. On Saturday, she dined with members of the Philippine chamber there, said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Yesterday, the President started her day by going to Mass and later meeting with representatives of the Filipino community before proceeding to Disneyland.

In the evening, she was to attend a concert at the park, featuring Filipino talents. *Reports from Christine O. Avendaño and AP*

WOWPHILIPPINES

PRESIDENT Arroyo stands beside a taxi painted with an ad touting the Philippines in front of a Hong Kong hotel. AFP

₱100 bill with GMA's name …

From page A1

one of the lucky few.

The bill is legal tender and can be used for your purchases. You can keep it as a collector's item, which may later fetch a much higher price than its face value.

The bank note misspelling the President's name is said to be a first in Philippine history.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas acknowledged yesterday that it had issued a "small" number of the notes.

"The BSP has apologized to the President over the incident," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Suratos Jr. said in a statement.

High demand

"Nevertheless, in accordance with policy, these 100-peso bank notes that have been issued by BSP are considered legal tender and should be accepted as genuine currency," Suratos said.

He said the printing of the bank notes had been outsourced abroad to ensure a sufficient supply during the Christmas season.

As P100 bills are highly in demand then, the BSP had bid out the printing of additional bills to foreign suppliers.

The error was discovered by a BSP employee only after a small batch had been released to some commercial banks, which in turn had already circulated the bills.

Withheld

The BSP cash department has withheld the issuance of the rest of the bills with the President's name misspelled. The central bank would not say how many of the bills had been printed and issued.

"We're investigating what happened," a BSP executive said.

Former BSP Governor Gabriel Singson, a career central banker who was at the helm of the central bank during the terms of President Fidel V. Ramos and President Joseph Estrada, said he could not recall a similar incident.

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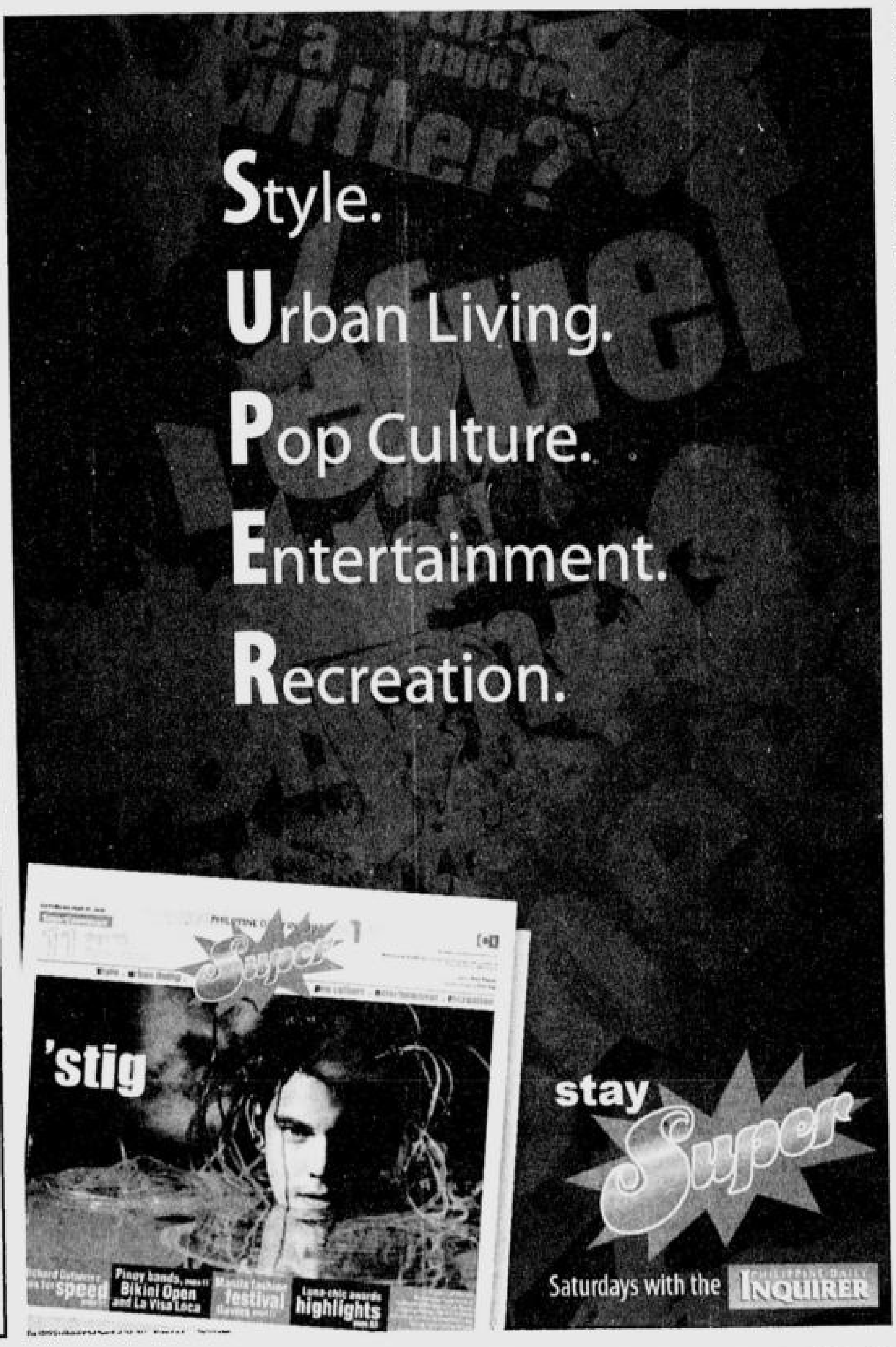

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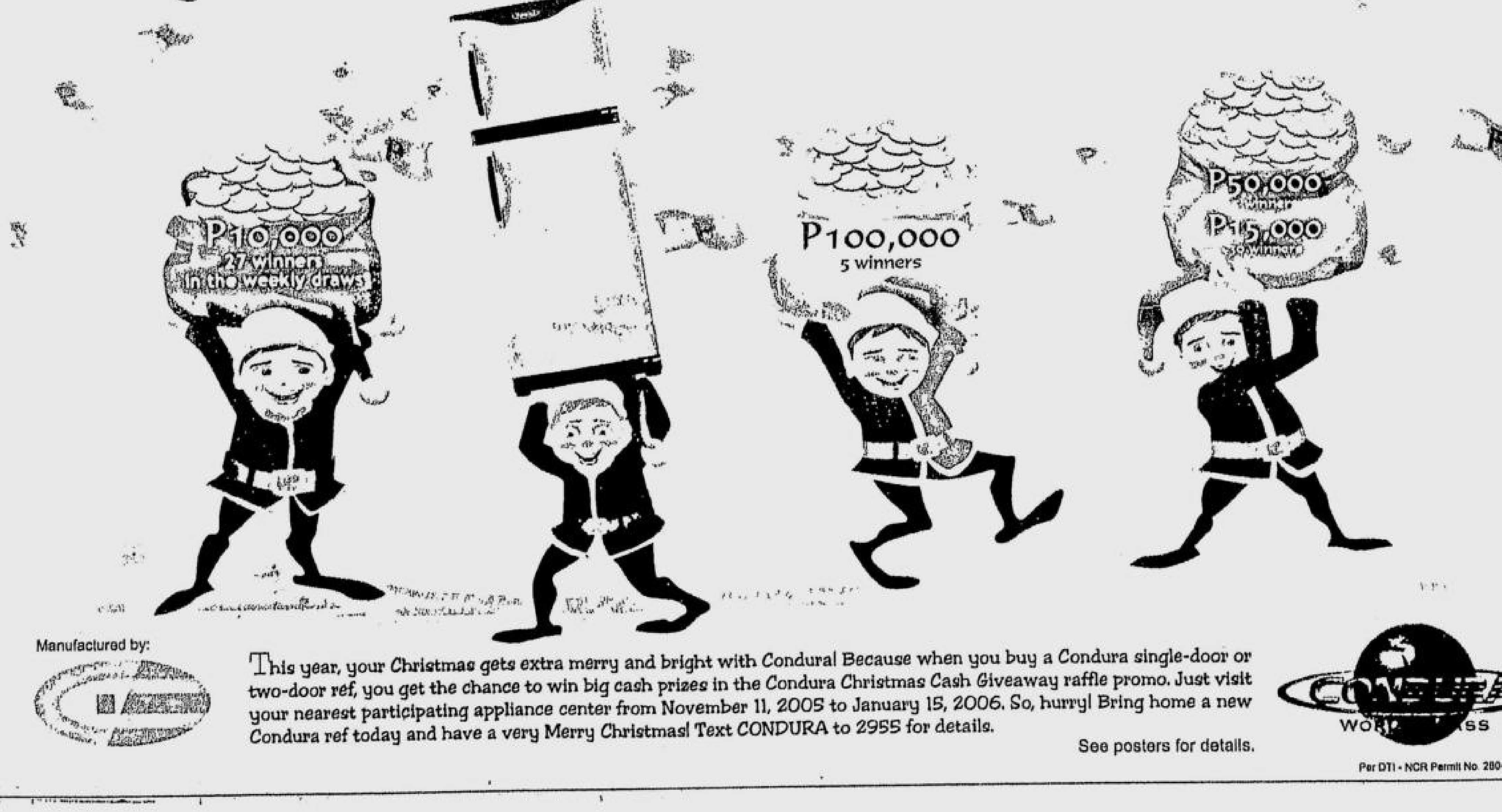

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Students seek bigger budget for education

By Alcuin Papa

MILITANT STUDENT GROUPS HAVE DEmanded the government increase the budget for education.

In a statement sent to media yesterday, the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) said the President's new P21-billion "pork barrel" should instead be allocated for the Department of Education (DepEd).

"As the 111 state colleges and universities continually suffer from poor instruction and facilities, President Macapagal-Arroyo has just received her biggest pork barrel to date—P21 billion to keep her floundering regime afloat through carrot-stick development projects of local government units to ensure their loyalty to the discredited President," said Terry Ridon, NUSP deputy vice president for Luzon.

Ridon denounced the P21 billion fund which he said should be allocated for "poorly funded basic social services such as higher education, health and housing in next year's budget appropriations."

He added: "Ms Arroyo will have proven yet again how insecure her regime has utterly become, by appropriating P8 billion for her Kilos Asenso and Kalayaan Barangay programs; supposedly performance-based development projects for LGUs, and P13 billion for her Healing the Wounds of Edsa program, apparently to offer the hand of reconciliation to her political foes through so-called projects to benefit the poor."

Ridon said the two funds were mere "palliatives" for Ms Arroyo's failure to address the lack of basic services like education. He said the 111 state universities and colleges (SUCs) would have to make do with a "meager" budget of P16.6 billion—P4 billion of which would go to the University of the Philippines system.

"The rest of the SUCs, which include the densely populated Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Mindanao State University and the University of Northern Philippines, will have to divide among themselves what is left of the very small budget."

Anakbayan also called for a raise in the education budget to arrest the deteriorating quality of education caused by the yearly decrease in outlay.

The DepEd is asking for P119 billion in the P1.06 trillion 2006 budget, up from last year's P112 billion.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 21, 2005
Presentation of Mary

1st Reading: Zec 2:14-17
Gospel: Matthew 12:46-50

While Jesus was still talking to the people, his mother and his brothers wanted to speak to him and they waited outside. So someone said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are just outside; they want to speak with you."

Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister, or mother."

Commentary

Mary is presented in the Scriptures as the perfect disciple. It could be said that in today's gospel passage the perfect disciple is presented as Mary. Some have imagined that Jesus was lowering his mother to the level of the disciples; "who is my mother?" seemed to them a strange question. But surely the reverse is the case; he was raising the disciple to the level of his mother. As he hang dying on the cross he said, "Woman, this is your son" (Jn 19:26). To some, this too appeared a little distant; but it was in fact a term of respect; it was the respectful way to address one's mother. Every disciple is Mary, in a sense. You are a disciple. Jesus has the same respect for you that he has for his mother.

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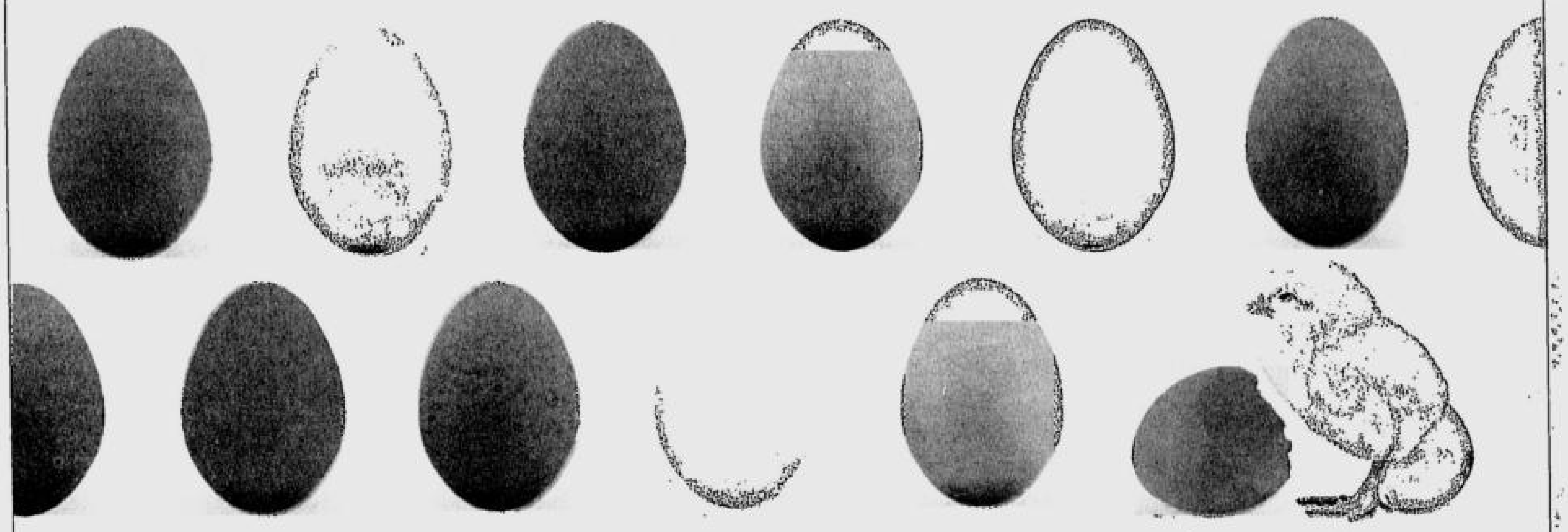

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5911 Series of 2005.

Subic rape case up at DOJ budget hearing

By TJ Burgonio

AT THE RESUMPTION OF BUDGET hearings today, senators will get another crack at questioning Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on the case of the 22-year-old woman who was allegedly raped by six US Marines.

The Senate committee of the whole, chaired by Senate President Franklin Drilon, will tackle the proposed 2006 budget of the Department of Justice.

"It is not remote that he might be asked about the controversial rape case involving six American servicemen," Drilon said in a statement.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he and his colleagues were inclined to further question Gonzalez on the case, especially if the suspects were still in the country.

"We want to find out what's the status of the investigation, which government has custody of the six suspects, and whether the suspects are still in the country or not," he said in an interview.

Gonzalez appeared at last Thursday's hearing of the Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement at the Senate, where he was asked to explain why the Marines were turned over immediately to the US authorities.

An administration senator, who asked not to be named, however, said he saw no reason to grill Gonzalez on the rape case, saying "I don't find fault in his position."

He said Gonzalez, retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, deputy administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and foreign affairs officials did not deserve the criticisms heaped on them for their apparent slowness to take custody of the suspects.

"None of them were at fault. Because we never had custody of the suspects from the start," he stressed in an interview. "If there's anyone who's at fault, it's the police of Subic. What did they do?"

Gonzalez had been accused by the victim's lead counsel, Katrina Legarda, of coddling the six Americans.

"I don't think that should be raised there. He had been asked on the same issue last Thursday," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of the legislative committee on the VFA, said in an interview. "We're now talking of the budget. Let the other senators ask the questions."

The senator, who asked not to be named, also said that instead of bickering over why the government failed to take custody of the suspects, the victim's lawyers and justice officials should prepare for the arraignment of the suspects when the case gets to court.

He said it was Legarda's job to prepare the complaint and the victim for the trial.

Bickering over the failure of the authorities to take custody was useless because the presence of the servicemen was "not yet needed" at the preliminary investigation of the case, the lawmaker said.

The trial court would only require their presence during the arraignment, assuming that the prosecutors recommend the filing of charges against them, he said. "We should prepare for that," he added.

Olongapo folk . . .

From page A1

has been set for Nov. 23.

Yesterday, Assistant Prosecutor Raymond Viray said one of the Americans, Albert Lara, had filed a motion to confront Timoteo Soriano Jr., the driver of the van where the alleged gang-rape took place. He said there was no need to approve the motion since the confrontation would take place on Nov. 23.

For almost a century, Subic Naval Base—the largest American facility outside the continental United States—was the home of the US Seventh Fleet.

"When the base and the soldiers were here, even vendors of cigarettes and roses managed to send their children to college," said Evelyn Merza, 40, explaining the local bias for Americans.

In 1992, the base was shut down and was turned over to the Philippine government, which transformed it into a freeport, a river away from where Minda and other fishing families live.

Confused

Mayor James Gordon Jr. said a "large percentage" of Olongapo residents liked the Americans owing to the big international business community in the city.

But Gordon said he also sensed his people to be having "mixed feelings or are now confused" about the Nov. 1 rape that has sparked almost daily anti-American protests in Manila and calls for the scuttling of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

He said this was because neither the complainant nor the accused had directly spoken to the media about the incident.

Olongapo residents, Gordon said, should consider the suspects innocent until a court had proven them guilty.

He said the bigger worry was the incident could be bad for businessmen. "They fear that no more ships would dock in Subic as a result of the incident," the mayor said.

Soldiers on "liberty," or rest and recreation, spend money on food and drinks, gift items, tours and a "good time" or night-out in clubs.

Former US Navyman Jim Correll said almost 3,000 retired American servicemen lived in the city but none of them had so far organized actions to express sympathy for the six American suspects.

"I feel for the soldiers involved. There's an ongoing investigation, but the issue has been constantly discussed by us, expatriates," Correll told the INQUIRER on Friday night.

Correll said the US government had not violated the VFA "because lots are at stake, including defense cooperation, at a time of world terrorism."

No legal hold

Minda said the ambivalence, if not the apathy, displayed by the residents toward the woman could be rooted in their feelings of numbness.

"A lot of rape cases had happened here during the base years but erring soldiers were taken away or the complainants opted to settle after being given money even before the cases were filed," she said.

Minda was an 18-year-old freshman college student and runaway when the first abuse happened. She was working in a bar when the second incident occurred.

In the second case, she said the police castigated her, telling her that sex workers had "no right" to complain of sexual abuse since they had chosen that kind of job.

In either of the cases, she did not go to court.

"The OPM (Office of the Provost Marshall) and the police were unsympathetic to women complaining of rape," she said.

Perla Ramos of Barangay Mabayuan recalled that her friend Sylvia, a bar worker from Pampanga, backed off from seeking police help when one of them made sex a condition for their assistance in a rape case.

Esperanza del Rosario, who has worked at the city prosecutor's office for 30 years as a stenographer, confirmed that local authorities lost their handle on suspects when base officials issued the waiver of primary rights of jurisdiction.

This, Del Rosario said, voided any request of the prosecutor for a "legal hold" on the suspect.

Back then, a legal hold meant that the suspect would not be allowed to leave the city or board his ship during the preliminary investigation.

Or even if they were held, trial and conviction were conducted by a court-martial overseas, as in the cases of Randall Glen Harris in 1984 and Daniel Doherty in 1982, court documents showed.

Racket

Legal hold was also a scheme by US soldiers who wanted to stay longer in the Philippines for the "good time" that rest and recreations havens like Olongapo City offered, according to a city official.

It was done in connivance with their girlfriends who cried rape or physical injuries.

At times, according to the official, charges were trumped up to wring money out of soldiers.

But whether or not the charges were true, the official said the naval intelligence service acted fast.

"They had Filipino lawyers who convinced the victims, their families or witnesses to settle the cases out of court or through evidence that really proved the innocence of the suspects," the official said.

It was no wonder that only a few cases reached the courts. Records from the city prosecutor's office showed that only 29 rape cases had been filed against US servicemen from 1986 to 1992. At least 22 cases were dismissed after preliminary investigation and only seven were filed in court.

In post-bases years, from 1993 to 2005, the prosecutor's office received 277 rape complaints against Filipinos. Of these, 100 were dismissed after preliminary investigation, 148 proceeded to court for trial while 29 were referred to other offices like the Department of Social Welfare and Development in cases where minors were involved.

This backdrop has unsettled Katrina Legarda, the lawyer of the Zamboanga City woman, who asked that the case be transferred to the Department of Justice in Manila.

Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni has served at his post since 1992, said the track record of his office showed no bias for or against American suspects.

"Everything rested on evidence," he said.

The lack of evidence, not the improper conduct of prosecutors or judges, was the main reason cases did not prosper.

"Definitely, she will get a fair hearing," said Jalandoni.

Minda said she could not blame the woman or her lawyer for wanting to move the case out of Olongapo.

"I learned the victim is not a bar worker, but here abused women don't get much justice," she said.

Correction

IN THE NOV. 18 issue, a special report on the front page—"GMA wary of allies, says document"—misstated the congressional district that Rep. Prospero Pichay represents. Pichay represents the first district of Surigao del Sur—not Surigao del Norte.

* * *

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Pork probe call diversionary ploy, claim senators

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

A CONGRESSMAN'S CALL FOR closer scrutiny of the use by lawmakers of their "pork barrel" was just an attempt to divert public attention away from the Senate inquiry into the alleged misuse of the P728-million fertilizer fund, senators said yesterday.

"It's not a problem for me. That's a problem for those who misused their pork barrel if they did," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in an interview. "It's a reaction to divert attention from the current investigation of the fertilizer fund."

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said he was open to the idea of examining the use of the pork barrel of both senators and congressmen, suggesting that this should be posted on the Internet.

"It's not a problem if we scrutinize that. But what's happening is that we [lawmakers] seem to be threatening one another with investigations," he said in an interview on dzBB.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles called for scrutiny into the use of their pork barrel by lawmakers after colleagues denounced "the trial by publicity" of congressmen in the ongoing Senate inquiry into the fertilizer fund scandal.

Some congressmen, governors and mayors had been identified as proponents of the Department of Agriculture's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani Program, which was partly funded with the P728 million for the purchase of farm inputs for farmers.

Pimentel stressed that members of the House had no reason to complain that they were the targets of the inquiry, saying, "The idea [of the inquiry] was to find the money and its misuse."

Villar agreed: "The investigation was in fact in defense of the congressmen. Since some of them had declared that they did not receive the money, through this inquiry we're trying to find out why they did not get the money."

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin of Basilan and Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, House contingent head to the Electoral Tribunal, dared the Senate to agree to a public scrutiny of their yearly pork barrel allocations.

In a joint statement, Salapuddin and Cagas said that just as congressmen had been open about their pork barrel use, senators should also be made accountable for their Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to "ensure transparency and prevent indiscretions and mistakes in fund allotments."

They sought the probe even as they decried how the Senate was inadvertently subjecting House members to "trial by publicity" through the fertilizer fund probe.

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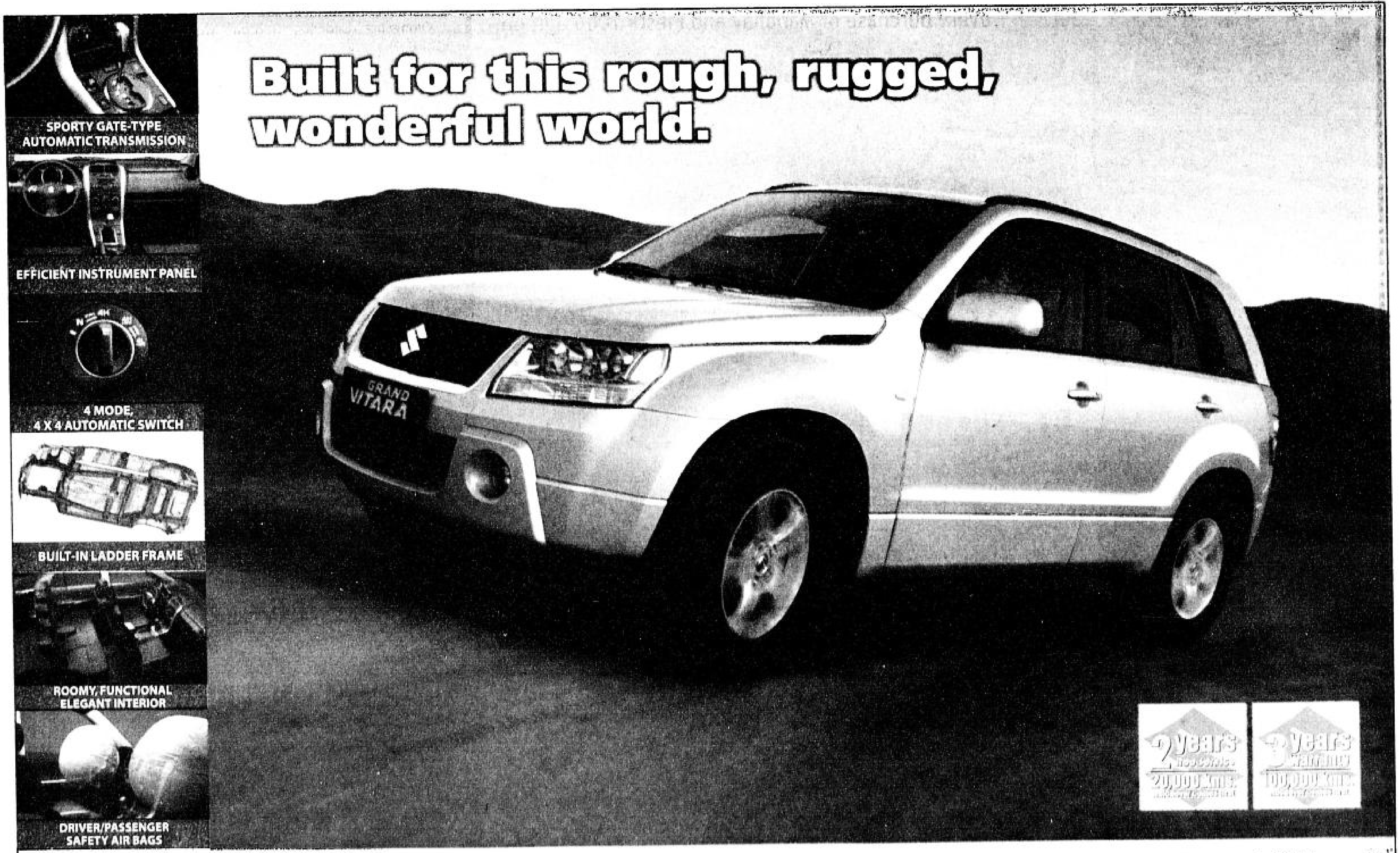

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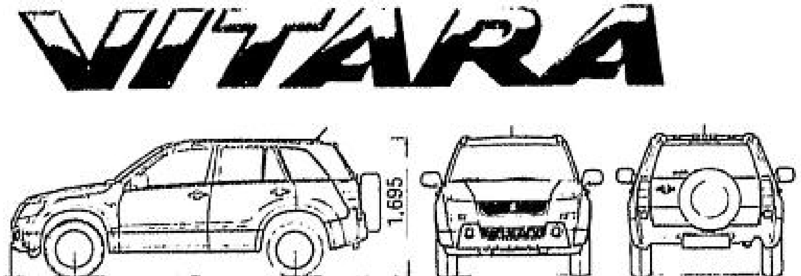

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Korean eng'r still missing

NO SIGN OF A KOREAN engineer has been found two days after his ship, the cargo vessel Bright Sun, sank off Ilocos Norte on Friday, the Philippine Coast Guard said.

Efforts to look for the engineer, whose name was not given, have been hampered by rough seas, according to PCG spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo.

Balilo said the PCG Auxiliary Squadron was forced to halt search and rescue operations yesterday after its two tugboats were battered by big waves.

But two PCG helicopters were still looking for the engineer.

Balilo said no definite date to end the search had been set, adding that this would depend on the assessment of the situation by the search coordinator.

The PCG has not been told the engineer's name, he said.

The Bright Sun's 20 other crew members—10 Filipinos and 10 Koreans—were rescued on Friday as they sat in life rafts after their vessel sank.

They were taken on board the liquefied natural gas carrier Bishu Maru and later transferred to the China-bound M/V Tianrong Hai.

The Bright Sun had come from Vietnam and was on its way to China when it sank.

Leila B. Salaverria

MALONSO

Reserves honor Malonso

SPORTSMAN AND writer Julian Malonso, a lieutenant colonel in the Philippine Army Reserves, was presented recently a plaque of honor by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command (AFPRESCOM).

The award, signed by Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus of the Philippine Air Force Reserves and commanding officer of AFPRESCOM's public affairs group, cited Malonso for "his loyalty to the Public Affairs Service, having served with distinction in this unit since its organization in February 1984."

"His loyalty, dedication to duty and outstanding performance in the field of public information have earned him emulation from his comrades in arms and has rendered him a position of honor in the unit for all time to come," the award said.

Malonso was an active sportsman who wrote on his favorite subject in his younger years. Even in retirement, he continues to contribute articles on sports to various publications.

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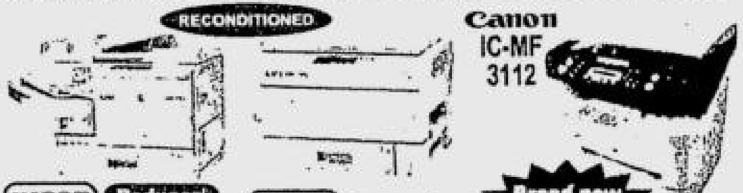

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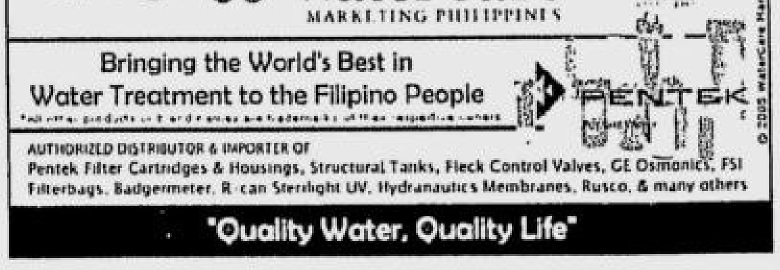

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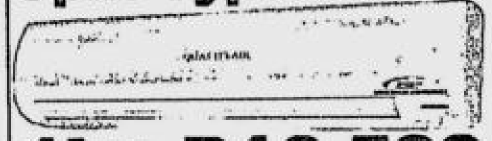

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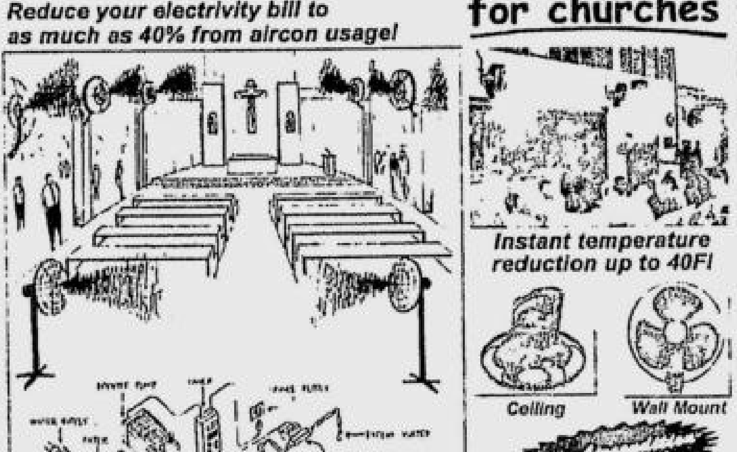

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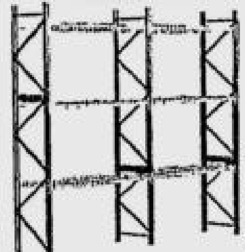

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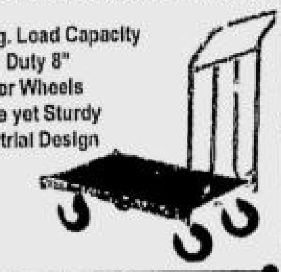

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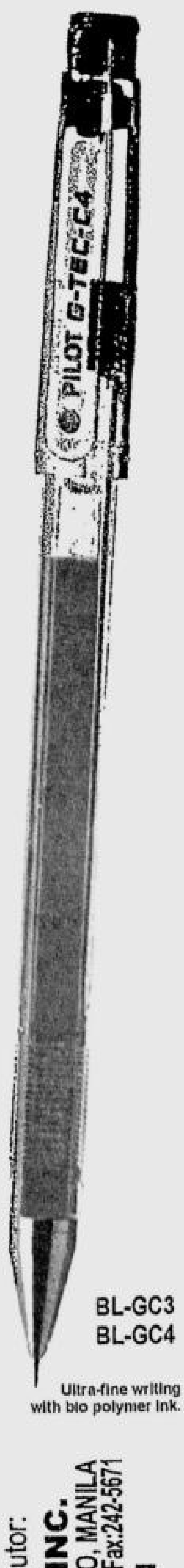

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

2 days of bomb attacks in Iraq kill 150

BAGHDAD—THE DEATH TOLL FROM A SUICIDE car bomb attack on the funeral of a Shiite sheikh rose to at least 50 from 35, doctors said on Sunday, as the number killed in a spate of attacks over the past two days rose to 150.

Another 75 people were wounded when the bomber blew up his vehicle near a crowded condolence tent at the tribal sheikh's funeral on Saturday in Abu Sayda, a small town near Baquba, 65 km northeast of Baghdad.

Medical officials in Baquba, who asked not to be identified, said many victims were badly mutilated, making identification difficult.

Baquba police Lt. Col. Sabah Salih said he saw bodies scattered in the street and the blood of victims mingled with large pots of food that had been made for mourners.

"I went to the place. I saw bodies everywhere. The tent was completely burned," Salih told Reuters in Baquba.

The attack at the funeral capped a bloody two days in Iraq during which six US troops were also killed.

Sectarian divisions appear to be widening as an insurgency by Sunni Arabs and foreign fighters against the Shiite- and Kurdish-led government and its US backers shows no signs of abating before the Dec. 15 elections.

On Saturday, another suicide car bomber killed 13 people and wounded 20 more in an attack on a busy market in the Diyala Bridge area just south of Baghdad.

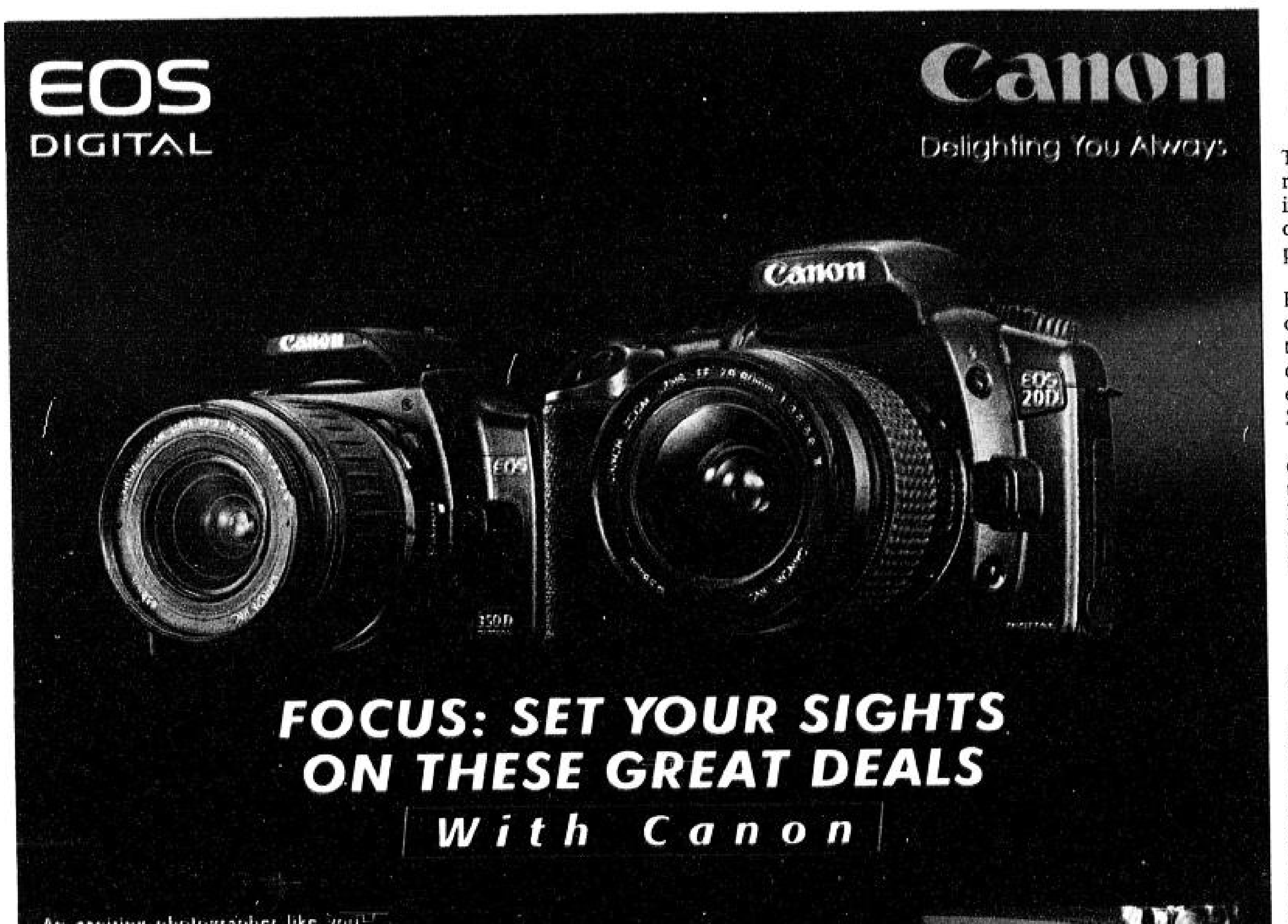
Five soldiers were killed in two makeshift bomb attacks on a patrol in the northern town of Baiji on Saturday.

The US military said on Sunday a Marine was killed on Saturday in a bomb attack near Haditha, about 200 km northwest of Baghdad in the mainly Sunni desert province of Anbar, one of the hotbeds of the insurgency.

Their deaths took the toll of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in March 2003 to 2,090, according to information compiled from the military.

Increasingly sophisticated makeshift roadside bombs—known by the US military as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs—are now the biggest killer of US forces in Iraq, accounting for almost 40 percent of deaths.

US and Iraqi forces have been conducting operations against Sunni Arab guerrillas throughout western Iraq in recent weeks in an effort to stem the insurgency before the elections, to allow more Sunnis to vote. *Reuters*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Cup of coffee a day lowers risk of high BP, says report

TOKYO—A JAPANESE MEDICAL research team has discovered drinking a cup of coffee or two a day could lower the risk of high blood pressure, a report said Sunday.

The team led by a researcher at Keio University conducted the study on 4,554 men aged from their 20s to 70s who visited Tokyo clinics for checkups on lifestyle-related disease from October 2003 to March 2004, the Tokyo Shimbun said.

The study found that people who drank no coffee had the biggest ratio of high blood pressure, with the lowest risk of high blood pressure in the category drinking three cups or more, it said.

"It would be good for young and middle-aged people to drink a cup of coffee or two everyday," the newspaper said, citing the researcher.

"Chlorogenic acid, a type of polyphenol contained in coffee, is considered to have the effect of expanding blood vessels," it said.

"But there also is a report that drinking coffee may lead to a cerebrovascular disorder for the elderly. Taking too much caffeine also induces excess stomach acid."

Another Japanese research team has found a cup of coffee a day halves the risk of colon cancer among women, according to a recent news report. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Pakistan gets $5.8B in quake aid

ISLAMABAD—Quake-stricken Pakistan heaved a sigh of relief on Sunday after world donors pledged almost $6 billion, and vowed in return to account for every cent as it distributes the aid to survivors of last month's huge tremor. Pakistan, seen as one of the most corrupt nations in a recent global survey, secured over $3 billion in fresh pledges at a donor conference on Saturday, taking the total to $5.83 billion, after the United Nations complained of a weak initial response. The Oct. 8 quake killed more than 73,000, mostly in the remote Himalayan region of Pakistani Kashmir and in North West Frontier Province, and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Fears had grown of a second calamity as winter closes in, threatening people living high in the mountains without proper shelter. *Reuters*

Opec urges cuts in oil taxes

RIYADH—The world's top energy producers, under pressure to meet global demand, called instead Saturday on leading consumer states, mainly in Europe, to cut taxes on oil to alleviate hikes in prices. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which supplies about 40 percent of world oil, and heavyweight member Saudi Arabia, made the call at the opening of the permanent seat of the International Energy Forum in Riyadh. Saudi King Abdullah, whose Gulf state holds the world's largest oil reserves, vowed to continue to provide enough supplies, but called on leading consumer states to cut taxes on petroleum products. "The policy of the kingdom is based on reaching a reasonable and fair price for oil and to provide enough supplies to all the consumers," he said at the opening, which was accompanied by a forum on the energy industry. "But all the efforts of the producing countries will not bear fruits if they are not met with a positive position by the main consumer states," he said. "These states should alleviate the ordeal of their citizens by cutting taxes on petroleum products when prices increase," he said. *AFP*

Japan space probe nears asteroid

TOKYO—A Japanese research probe moved within meters of an asteroid on Sunday, but officials then lost contact and it was unclear whether it had successfully landed to collect surface samples, Japan's space agency said. The Hayabusa probe, which botched a rehearsal earlier this month, is on a mission to make a brief landing on the asteroid, collect material, then bring it back to Earth. When Hayabusa was 40 m above the asteroid Itokawa it dropped a small spherical telemeter as a touchdown target, then descended to 17 m, JAXA officials said. At that point, ground control lost contact with the probe for about three hours, JAXA official Kiyotaka Yashiro said. *AP*

Sued for bogus dating scam

NEW YORK—Match.com, one of the top Internet dating websites, has been accused of hiring people as "date bait" to go out with some of their one million customers to encourage them to keep paying for the service. A Los Angeles racketeering lawsuit said the lonely hearts website secretly recruited people to send enticing emails to its customers and to go out on dates with them as a way of getting them to keep up their $30 monthly subscription. The company's ringers, branded "date bait," went on as many as 100 dates a month—three per day—with Match.com customers, who use the site to search for boyfriends, girlfriends, and possible husbands and wives. *AFP*

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Hu to Bush: China won't tolerate Taiwan freedom

BEIJING—CHINA WILL NOT TOLERATE Taiwan's independence, Chinese President Hu Jintao told his US counterpart George W. Bush during a meeting here Sunday.

"I reaffirmed to President Bush that the Chinese government and Chinese people are committed to peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits," Hu said in a statement after their meeting.

"And we're ready to do our utmost with all sincerity to strive for the prospect of a peaceful reunification of our country.

"This being said, we will by no means tolerate so-called Taiwan independence."

Hu told Bush he appreciated the US president's stated opposition to Taiwan moving towards formal independence and his commitment to abiding by the "one-China" policy, under which Beijing defines Taiwan as part of its territory.

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush and China President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Nov. 20. AP

However, he urged Bush to continue to discourage Taipei's proindependence moves, arguing that doing so was in the interest of the United States.

"To oppose and check so-called Taiwan independence and safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits serves the common interests of China and the United States," Hu said.

Taiwan separated from mainland China in 1949 at the end of a civil war but Beijing insists it is still a part of its territory that must eventually be reunified, by force if necessary.

Despite switching diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, the United States remains Taiwan's biggest arms supplier and is bound by US law to help the island defend itself against any attack.

Beijing has said the Taiwan issue is at the core of Sino-US relations and is the most sensitive issue affecting the relationship. *AFP*

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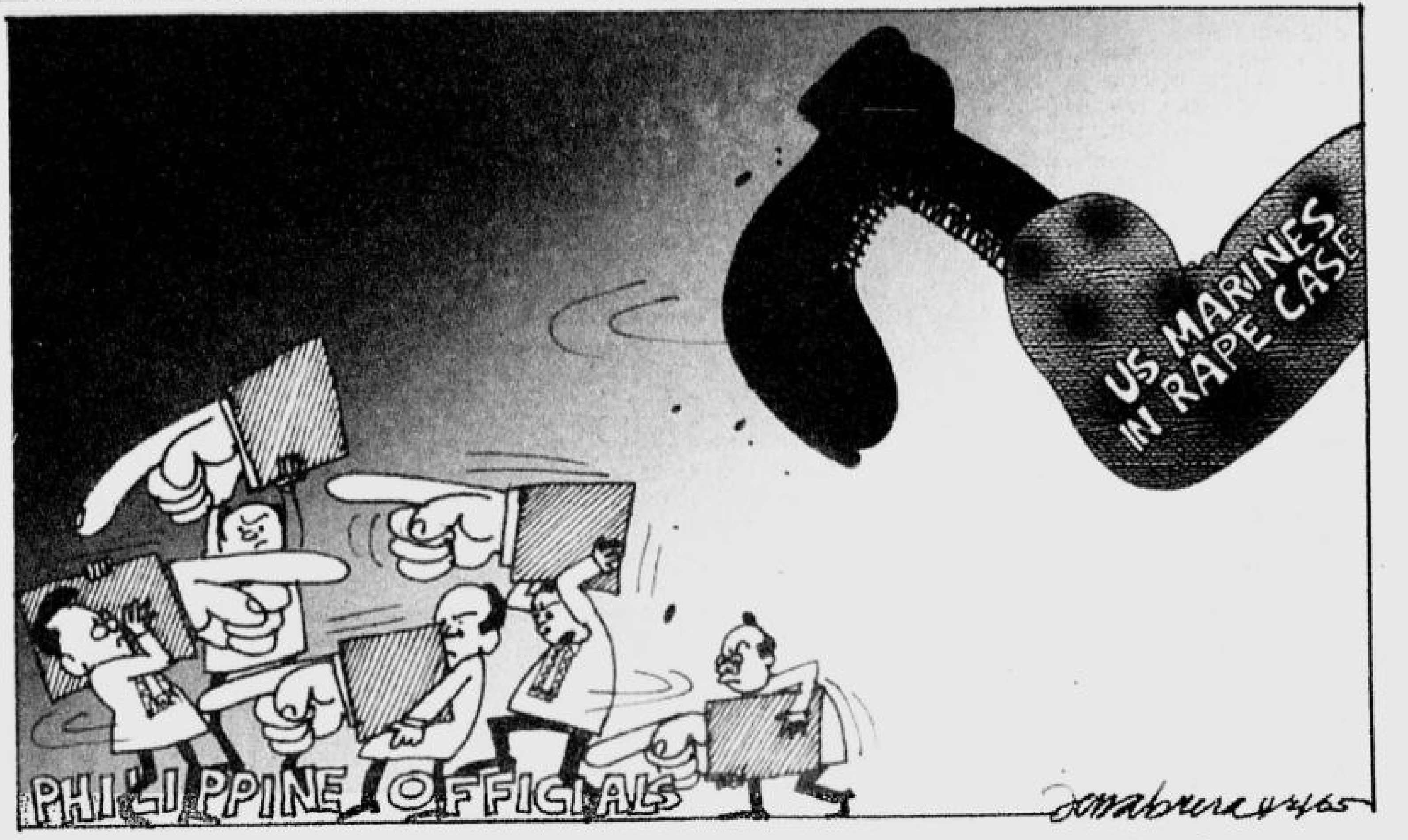

Horse manure

EDITORIAL

ON ITS FACE, THE FERTILIZER-FUND SCANDAL deserves to be thoroughly investigated. There are 728 million reasons to suspect that the money was misused, possibly to influence the results of a democracy's most important recurring rite: general elections.

But even though it is possible to dissociate last year's still controversial polls from the fund, the fertilizer scandal still requires a comprehensive unearthing. If Senate President Franklin Drilon is right, this is a scam that is novel in its method and breathtaking in its brazenness.

We do not know whether Drilon himself, or indeed the other senators who have participated in the hearings of the Senate's committee on agriculture, can view the scandal separately from the political crisis surrounding President Macapagal-Arroyo. A former close ally of the President's, Drilon has led calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation since that fateful Friday of July 8. It would be a pity if the Senate probe into the fertilizer fund scandal depended alone on opposition to the President; we do not want our senators' attention to stray, for instance, if the trail to Malacañang grows cold.

This is not to say that Palace officials were not involved in the alleged scam; this is only to argue that, whether they were involved or not, the Senate must get to the root of the scandal. The whole fertilizer-fund mess is an object lesson in the abuse of power and the misuse of public funds.

Let's start with the list of "proponents," which the Department of Agriculture used cunningly to justify the fund in the first place. It includes some 105 congressmen, plus a cluster of governors and mayors. It also specifies uniform amounts, regardless of which districts the "proponents" represent. The list includes many "proponents" who in fact never made a fund-related proposal.

Then consider the list of fertilizer-fund "recipients." They are about the same in number as "proponents," but not all those who ostensibly made proposals received money from the fund for their pains. In fact, the list of "recipients" includes three kinds: there are those listed as "proponents" but did not in fact receive any amount, then those who were listed as "proponents" but who received some amount, and finally those who were listed as "recipients," but did not actually receive any amount.

The testimony last week of Antonio Salas, assistant provincial treasurer of Eastern Samar, was proof that there were the third kind of "recipients." He showed that the provincial government was supposed to have received P6.5 million worth of fertilizer and implements from the P728-million Ginintuang Masaganang Ani program. In fact, the provincial capitol did not receive a single item.

According to the record, a company called Akame Marketing International was paid P6.5 million in GMA funds for a total of 4,328 bags of fertilizer, for delivery to Eastern Samar farmers. These bags were supposed to have been "accepted" by the office of Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan and the office of Gov. Clotilde Salazar.

But almost a year and a half ago, Salas discovered an irregularity. "We spoke with [provincial agricultural officer Mr. [Jesus] Agda and found out that there were no actual deliveries of fertilizer or implements to the provincial government and he, thereafter, issued a certification to that effect dated June 7, 2004," Salas said in his sworn affidavit.

In his testimony before the Senate, Salas said he made the discovery when he personally inquired into the matter, after he had to field questions about the missing bags of fertilizer, "which were supposed to be delivered to the province and availed of by the farmers."

(He couldn't help telling the Senate, rather dramatically: "I wanted for so long to be with this body so that our people and the country would know about these anomalies." We can forgive him for this dramatic flourish, however, because it is clear he has taken a great risk in coming forward.)

It is possible, as some have alleged, that the entire GMA fund was only an elaborate scheme to use government funds to help the President's election campaign. The Salas disclosure helps us get our bearings on this issue. But the real question remains: Who did the actual dirty work, and turned the fertilizer fund into expensive horse manure?

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As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE TOPIC OF THE LATE-NIGHT TALK shows last Friday of the two leading TV networks, Channels 2 and 7, were, coincidentally, the GMA versus mass media rumble. The programs' hosts assembled and interviewed partisans from both sides of the fence and it became very clear that the pro-GMA factions did not know what they were talking about.

It is the tragedy of the contemporary Philippine press that there are many fake and *haosiao* journalists pretending to be genuine ones, no different from a poll loser pretending to be a winner and the president. And there were several of them in the two talk shows I mentioned, who have delusions of being journalists just because they write innocuous columns in some newspapers or bought air time as commentators in some television and radio stations. A column or radio-TV program does not a journalist make, but being a "journalist" is now the newest status symbol, in some cases a short-cut to fame and public office. Politicians, former and incumbent government officials buy space in newspapers and air time in broadcast stations so they can praise themselves and their friends and pretend to be journalists and be known by the electorate when they run for public office. But many of them can't even write and they hire ghostwriters to write for them, and then have their names and mugs plastered on newspaper pages as alleged "columnists."

There was a time before martial law when newspapers and radio stations hired only professional journalists as columnists and commentators. Later many volunteered as columnists without pay and in fact paid for the spaces they filled up, and in the case of radio stations, some commentators paid for the air time. Publishers and managers of losing newspapers and stations succumbed to the pecuniary blandishments of the journalist-wannabes. And so the floodgates to the fakes and *haoshiaos* were opened and they are now polluting some newspapers and air waves. These are some of the *haoshiaos* who polluted the two talk shows I mentioned.

The thrust of their argument is that there is too much "negative" news and not enough "positive" news in the media. They echo the claim of the Marcos martial law administration that media should be a partner of the government in nation building.

There should be a balance between the "good news" and the "bad news," they said. A congressman-panelist complained that the media did not report the six bills he had filed in Congress. In short, they want the media to praise them and be their cheering squad.

Let me clarify the role of the press in a democratic society. The press does not exist to be the cheering squad of the government. It exists to be critical of the government and its officials. It exists not to point out the "good and the beautiful" in the government, but to point out the faults and blemishes in it. A public official shouldn't expect to be praised for doing a good deed. He is supposed and expected to do that. That is his job and duty. And a good deed is its own reward.

But when he does wrong, then that should be pointed out so that he would know that what he did was wrong and so that he can correct it. And so that the public will know what the official they voted into office did or did not do and can replace him when the next election comes around.

The odds are so heavily in favor of the government that it does not need the press to backstop it. On the contrary, it needs the press to hold it in check and criticize it when it abuses its powers. It has the funds, the many agencies supported by taxpayers' money to promote itself. It even has some pseudo-journalists in its pockets.

On the other hand, the public has nobody on its side but the press. The press is the eyes and ears of the people. It tells them what they should know. It can be compared to an ombudsman, who exists as the watchdog and prosecutor for the people.

In other words, our society needs something to balance the immense powers of the government. And that, in its own limited way, is the role of the press. That is the "balance" that everybody should be crying for.

One of the panelists asked: What about accountability? The government accounts to the people, what about the media?

Two of the professional journalists (God bless them) replied that media account to the public, too, and more quickly than do the public officials. Politicians account for their actions usually only during the elections every year. But the media account for their actions every day, every hour, every minute. A media outlet that loses its credibility quickly loses readers and viewers. The public is very discerning and can be quite unforgiving.

Witness what happened to the media during the martial law regime. The press published only "positive news" about the government and rarely any "negative news." What happened? The public did not believe the establishment press and patronized the underground press such as the INQUIRER and We Forum. The same thing will happen if we follow the clamor of Ate Glue and her defenders to accentuate the "good news" and play down the "bad news." Nobody would believe the media and a new underground press would be born.

Things will not be better just because media don't report them. Prices will still be high, jobs will still be unavailable, millions will still have no roofs over their heads, and corruption will still be there just because we don't report them. Burying our heads in the sand and pretending they don't exist won't make them disappear.

Progress

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER AGAIN MY CONVERSATIONS with a Japanese and a German over the subject of elections. They were revelations in cultural differences.

The Japanese was telling me about the party system in Japan and the relative popularity of individual politicians. I asked him if anyone had been known to switch parties. His reaction was remarkable. He found the question almost incomprehensible. "Why would anyone want to do that?" he asked when he had found his voice. "To advance his political career," I said. "But if he did that, he would have no political career altogether," he said, "no one would vote for him." "Why is that?"—I asked. "Because he could no longer be trusted, he would be deemed capable of betraying anyone."

The German, on the other hand, was a political expert lecturing on German elections. I asked him to what extent cheating occurs in their elections. His reaction was just as remarkable: he found the question near-incomprehensible. He searched the hard disc in his brain and retrieved the memory of some cheating having occurred in an obscure part of East Germany after reunification. Quite simply, nobody thinks to cheat in elections. It is just not done.

I remembered these conversations after seeing some readers' feedback last Friday. The letters were grouped under the heading, "Looking ahead." Two letters were for moving on, and two were for doing something about an illegitimate rule. Curiously (though I am no longer surprised by the fact), the letters that urged readers to stop protesting came from Filipinos living in the United States and the ones that urged readers to refuse to yield to iniquity came from Filipinos living in the Philippines.

In the first category, one argued that "the votes for GMA that may have been obtained through cheating are not significant enough to warrant the deprivation of the votes of the majority." The letter-writer said that despite the cheating, GMA won anyway, though probably by a smaller margin. Another argued that GMA is not the only leader in this country, there are others who are basically good ones. Why should we spend our time knocking down government then? Let GMA well enough alone to be disturbed by her conscience.

I will not go into the second category. The arguments there are pretty much the same ones I've been putting forward in this space for some time. One cites a whole paragraph from one of my recent columns.

It is the easiest thing to refute the arguments put forward by those who urge us to move on. The notion that GMA won the elections anyway despite cheating is wrong on two grounds. First, it is simply not true, as recent analysis of the actual election returns shows—which is why any attempt to demonstrate this, such as by impeachment trial or by Senate hearing, is being systematically torpedoed. Second, the other letter-writers are right: What kind of lesson are you teaching the kids when you suggest that it is all right for them to cheat in their exams so long as they can prove afterward they could have passed even if they hadn't done so?

Leave GMA to her conscience? She hasn't got any.

It is the easiest thing to refute these arguments, but that is the least of our worries. The most of our worries is that these arguments are being advanced at all. That is the graver problem, the one that truly needs addressing. How have we reached a pass where we are willing to accept cheating in elections so long as the cheater can claim afterward, rightly or wrongly, she would have won anyway without it? How have we reached a pass where we are willing to accept a president who did not win the elections because she also has good people in her government? How have we reached a pass where we are wiling to accept that questions of right and wrong mean nothing in light of our need to progress?

The contrast in attitude toward life between my conversations above and the "let's move on" letters is staggering. In the one, you find a demand for the highest standards of human conduct; in the other, a settling for the least possible option. The way things are going, I won't be surprised if not long from now we hear arguments like: "Of course, the fellow raped the girl, but at least he didn't kill her. Let's forget about it and move on." Standards are tricky things, they can be raised or lowered depending on public expectation. They are called standards precisely because they are the prevailing norm. We accept lying and cheating, raping and pillaging, maiming and murdering, they become the prevailing norm.

The irony is that the call to forget protest is being made in the name of progress. Which is what moving on means. Well, progress is not just physical, it is also mental. Indeed, the first cannot happen without the second. It cannot happen without—as supremely ironically, GMA herself recommends to media—thinking like a winner. Progress is not just having more and better, it is expecting to have more and better. It is not settling for less and worse, it is striving to have the best and finest. It is demanding more honest officials, more educated citizens, more pride and ambition in the nation. Until it becomes so ingrained in our minds the notion of a dishonest official, an ignorant citizen, an attitude of servility and mendicancy becomes near-incomprehensible. Until it becomes so much a part of our instinct the notion of a crime being condoned and a criminal not being punished becomes near-inconceivable.

Beggars cannot be choosers, true. But even truer, those who are not choosers become beggars. Every day that we learn to live with iniquity and oppression, we set new standards in "loser-hood."

Progress? We "move on" this way and we'll be glad to survive by the skin of our teeth.

Civic liberalization

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IT USED TO BE THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO OBtain citizenship; now it has been made easier. And it is now more difficult to lose one's natural-born citizenship.

Naturalization under the old law was quite an ordeal. (It still is for those who do not qualify to seek naturalization under the liberalized law.) It starts one year in advance with a declaration of intention to seek naturalization. This is followed by the hearings, during which the applicant must prove that he or she has all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications found in the Naturalization Law. One can rarely tell how long the hearings will last and how much it will cost. But even after the applicant has won a favorable verdict, he or she must still go through a two-year period of probation, during which the applicant may not leave the country. After the period of probation, another hearing is held to determine whether the applicant has fulfilled all the requirements of the probation. It is only after this that the applicant can get a go signal from the court to take the oath of allegiance as a naturalized citizen.

That is not all, however. If at any time it should appear that there was a lapse in the process of naturalization, the matter can be reopened.

During the Marcos regime, there was an easier process through which many obtained naturalization. By presidential decree, an executive body was created which was authorized to process applications for naturalization. The process was not as strict as the judicial process. Those who passed this process were recommended for naturalization and they received it by presidential decree.

The Marcos process is no longer in effect; but in 2000, something similar, the Administrative Naturalization Law, was enacted by Congress. I was not aware of the existence of this law, until a law student asked me for a favorable recommendation. It was he who showed me that, yes, there is such a law by plunking a copy of it on my desk.

The object of this new law is expressed in its Declaration of Policy: "The State shall control and regulate the admission and integration of aliens into its territory and body politic including the grant of citizenship to aliens. Towards this end, aliens born and residing in the Philippines may be granted Philippine citizenship by administrative proceeding subject to certain requirements dictated by national security and interest."

As can be seen, its applicability is limited to those who were born in and have resided in the Philippines since birth. The purpose is to facilitate their integration into Philippine society. The other qualifications and disqualifications are practically the same as those for judicial naturalization. My impression, moreover, from a quick look at the new law, is that an applicant can, if everything goes well, obtain naturalization within a period of six months.

One of the more important qualifications is that the "applicant must have mingled with the Filipinos and evinced a desire to learn and embrace the customs, traditions and ideals of the Filipino people." And there are many such, even as many natural-born Filipinos are choosing to obtain citizenship in a foreign country.

But wait! Even those who leave the country and become citizens of another country need not lose their citizenship. They can have their cake and eat it too by having dual citizenship.

Dual citizenship, of course, imports dual and sometimes conflicting allegiances. Our Constitution considers dual allegiance "inimical to the national interest" and thus commands Congress to deal with dual allegiance. Congress has dealt with it by normalizing it through the Dual Citizenship Law!

The dual allegiance aspect, however, is hidden behind a title that does not speak of dual citizenship. The title of the law is "An Act Making the Citizenship of Philippine Citizens who Acquire Foreign Citizenship Permanent, Amending for the Purpose Commonwealth Act No. 63, as Amended, and for other Purposes." The essence of the law is that any natural born Filipino citizen who acquires or has acquired foreign citizenship is deemed not to have lost his or her Philippine citizenship provided he or she takes the oath of allegiance prescribed by the new law.

Obviously the law does not solve the problem of "dual allegiance" which the Constitution says is "inimical to the national interest." The law skirts this issue by being silent about the effect of the retention of Philippine citizenship on the allegiance owed to a foreign state. While silent about it, however, the law recognizes the possibility of retaining a conflicting allegiance to a foreign state. Thus, the law requires express renunciation of foreign citizenship (which necessarily includes foreign allegiance) by those who might seek election to office or accept an appointive office in the Philippines. It also requires that those who intend to vote in the Philippines or to accept public office should not be holding public office in a foreign state or be in active military service in a foreign state. Holding public office and serving in the military are manifestations of allegiance.

The law certainly is a novelty. However, every state is free to determine who it will consider its citizens.

Another aspect of civic liberalization is the loosening of the requirements for the exercise of suffrage. But I have run out of space for that.

Indecorous movements

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

A MILD CONFUSION CONFOUNDED SOME practicing Roman Catholics lately with the piece of news that "the Vatican has banned the holding of hands" in the singing of "Our Father" during Holy Mass. Because it was attributed to the Vatican, many Catholics thought that a new prohibition had been promulgated, coming as it did from the papacy of the "conservative" new pope. A contextualization is probably in order.

The news item actually came on the heels of the recently concluded 20th National Meeting of Diocesan Directors of Liturgy, held last Sept. 12-16 in Palo, Leyte, under the auspices of Palo Archbishop Pedro Dean. The national association of liturgy directors is also under the guidance of the Episcopal Commission on Liturgy of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. At present, Bishop Romulo Valles of the Diocese of Kidapawan chairs the commission.

The commission is given the task of implementing the provisions of the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) promulgated on Dec. 3, 1963, at the close of the Second Vatican Council. Over the years, the commission has adequately provided direction in coping with the many changes envisioned by the Second Vatican Council, especially where extraordinary decisions had to be arrived at in relation to liturgy. At present, the commission's focus is toward the fulfillment of Pope John Paul II's concern with inculturation for renewed evangelization.

Guiding our understanding on the matter of the "holding of hands" are the important keywords "culture" and "liturgy."

The discussions of the Palo meeting in September, centering on the theme "Rubrics in the Celebration of the Eucharist," concluded with a statement that, despite its notable intentions, was twisted by some quarters and became the source of the so-called prohibition. The statement mentions that "it is possible to eliminate in the assembly indecorous movements or bodily gestures" in the celebration of the Vatican II Mass.

The diocesan directors define "indecorous" as "unnecessary movements that may disrupt the sacredness and solemnity of the rite." An example that can be cited is the matter of dances where these are not liturgical but are rather for entertainment. That is not to say that liturgical dances are now banned. Nevertheless, there is such a thing as "liturgical movement" (the term often used by the Vatican) that is in keeping with the liturgical celebration. In fact, many Vatican Masses officiated by the Pope have included these liturgical movements.

The most controversial aspect of the *kuryente* news that the Vatican banned the holding of the hands is nowhere mentioned in the statement. In truth, there is no papal pronouncement prohibiting it. On the other hand, it must be noted that the holding of the hands is not in the rubrics, and hence is not the liturgical norm. Notwithstanding that, it simply cannot be dismissed by saying that it is not in the rubrics, and therefore it is prohibited. "Rubrics," by the way, refer to "necessary guides for the correct and dignified celebration of the Holy Eucharist."

Recall, however, that 15 to 20 years ago, there was no such practice in the Philippines as the holding of the hands in the singing of "Our Father." Liturgists point to its genesis as probably an offshoot of the Catholic charismatic movement where this gesture was widely practiced. There is also the possibility of it having simply originated from the faithful's spontaneity. The most that can be said about it is that the practice is not Roman and therefore, to go back to the argument, not part of the rubrics.

At the same time, the Vatican, especially where the reforms of Vatican II are concerned, encourages inculturation, so that liturgical celebrations can include elements that are reflective of local cultural nuances. Since 1975, for example, the CBCP has approved a Filipino inculturated Mass, known as "Misa ng Bayang Pilipino," that has yet to be given the seal of confirmation by Rome.

Having said that, it has become a common misconception among laypeople that Catholics are free to introduce any inculturated element to the celebration of the Holy Mass. The Mass has to be guided by a universal set of norms, and that is the function of the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. Since at the moment there are no specific guiding norms governing the holding of the hands, the gesture has to be understood as an element of inculturation that has to be guided by the universal norms.

Catholics who are fond of the holding of the hands must take special note that in other countries, no such practice exists. Tactility is culture bound. Some cultures are particularly indifferent to tactile contact, like some cultures in the West and in Asia. An important consideration is that Catholics who prefer the holding of the hands should be able to respect those who do not wish to do so. It must not be taken as a sign of brashness. It may simply be diffidence, or simply a desire to be "Roman."

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

The Supremo lives

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE TRIAL OF ANdres Bonifacio (as translated by Virginia Palma-Bonifacio, 1963), we read:

"In the municipality of Maragondón on this 4th day of May, 1897, before the investigating officer appeared the person of Andrés Bonifacio, 33 years old, married and a native of Tondo, Manila, with occupation as President of the Revolution and head of the Katipunan. In the course of the investigation he was asked if he knew of the existence of a revolutionary government in this province to which he answered that he did not know...

"Asked whether he was in that meeting at Tejeros, [where] Emilio Aguinaldo had been elected President, he replied that because confusion reigned at the time, nothing resulted therefrom and the matters taken up were declared null and void, including the topics taken up by the Magdiwang ministers and the election of Artemio Ricarte as commander-in-chief of the Tagalog provinces, all of which resulted in proving that irregularities were committed and anything taken up did not express the will of the people; thus, he was not in a position to say that General Emilio Aguinaldo had been elected President of the whole archipelago.

"Asked whether Emilio Aguinaldo took his oath of office immediately after his election as President, he answered he did not know....

"The hearing was adjourned and after reading [the transcript] and informing him of his statement, the declarant signed it; the Secretary afterwards attested to its correctness."

When Bonifacio signed the transcript of his testimony, he wrote, under his name, "Maypagasa," his Katipunan nom de guerre. He was an idealist to the end.

Setting aside the power struggle which resulted in the downfall of the Supremo, and the question of the Supremo's qualification to be a hero (a useless debate, which is why I have stopped trying to rebut Father Nudas), the saddest thing about Bonifacio's last days is the behavior of the soldiers around him: their cruelty, their delight in humiliating people, their love of showing off their authority when no one could resist them (which was plain and simple cowardice).

After he left the Tejeros Convention, Bonifacio ended up with his supporters in Limbon, Indang, Cavite. Colonels Agapito Bonzon (nicknamed "Yntong"), Jose Ignacio Pawa and Felipe Topacio, the officers sent by the new government to arrest the Supremo, arrived there on April 27, 1897. They arrested him the next day. Here is the Supremo's testimony about his arrest taken from the transcript (the "declarant" is Bonifacio):

"[T]he men under Col. Yntong [Bonzon] fired five shots from Muaser guns but there were no return shots by the declarant's men. After a while, soldiers under the command of Col. Yntong approached the trenches and surrounded them, but the declarant in a loud voice ordered Maj. Benito Torres to relay it to their men not to fire at the approaching men, because they were shouting that they were our brothers and that their respective officers should first confer: when the declarant allowed them to come nearer, they aimed their guns on the soldiers inside the trenches, disarmed them and shouted loudly for the shameless Supremo who had robbed them of their money to come out [from the transcript: 'Ang ualang hiyang Supremo na magtatakao ñg aming salapi']. The declarant came out and embraced the soldiers and told them, 'Brothers, I have not committed any shameful acts nor have I taken your money from you.' The reply was a gunshot ordered by a thin man who was said to be a major, but the bullet missed him near the shoulder and instead hit in the breast a man in a brown shirt behind him. The declarant shouted at them, 'Look whom you are killing, brothers, they are your own countrymen!' Instead of heeding his appeal, they simultaneously fired at him and after he fell, an officer stabbed him in the throat."

Bonifacio added that "besides the acts committed, the soldiers confiscated his clothes and the little money he had saved for expenses; declarant further added that he saw Col. Yntong forcing his wife to go up to an uninhabited house with the intention of dishonoring her." (The act, said the Supremo, was frustrated by the intervention of others, but Yntong would try to rape Gregoria de Jesus again in Indang.)

Bonifacio's account shows his fellow revolutionaries acting the way Philippine Constabulary troops were said to have behaved during martial law: firing their guns without any justification, abusing women, beating up the people they arrested. Additional testimony by Bonifacio's brother, Procopio, is interesting:

"Question: Where was he arrested and why were there bloodstains on his clothes? He replied that he was arrested in the trenches of Limbon. The bloodstains came from the wound [on] his upper lip when a soldier hit him with the butt of his gun. He was surprised by the attack, and he did not fight back and immediately surrendered his firearms."

Worse than the Constabulary troops, the soldiers sent to apprehend Bonifacio hid behind a supposed grievance (they accused Bonifacio of pocketing soldiers' funds) instead of coming out with it and saying they were arresting him because of his refusal to recognize the new government.

We seem to have a streak of cruelty—combined with cowardice—running in our veins that shows itself the moment we're given a little power over others, especially if we're wearing a uniform or hold military rank.

Was this always part of our character as a people, or is this one of the sadder legacies of the Revolution?

How Musharraf manages to survive

COMMENTARY

Pervez Hoodbhoy

THE DEVASTATING KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE IS ONCE again testing the skills of one of the world's great political survivors. Gen. Pervez Musharraf, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has few friends and many enemies. Pakistan's major political parties oppose him. For the religious right and the mullahs, he is an agent of America, the great Satan, and has thus betrayed the cause of Islam.

Somewhere out there, gunning for Musharraf, are Islamic militants furious at being dumped after they fought his covert wars in Afghanistan and Kashmir. Many in Musharraf's own army despise him for the same reason. For Pakistan's small and embattled liberal and left-wing forces, he is yet another military dictator who seized and holds power by force, undermining the development of democracy.

So how does Musharraf survive? In large part, he can thank 9/11. Faced by a United States bent upon bloody vengeance, Pakistan's military establishment scurried to join the US-led coalition and take up arms against its own creation, the Taliban. Only a few senior officers with an Islamic bent resisted this straightforward betrayal. They were soon marginalized, drawing praise from Washington.

With US help, an economy that had nearly run aground was suddenly righted by a wave of international aid and loan write-offs. Even more important was a decision, taken in the hope of choking off funds to extremist groups, to require all expatriate Pakistani earnings to be remitted through official banking channels.

In a curious way, nuclear weapons also are crucial to Musharraf's survival, for they create conditions that distract Pakistan's highly ideological army from its objective of war with India. The dispute over Kashmir had occupied the minds of military planners throughout Pakistan's history, and war had been the raison d'être for maintaining the world's eighth-largest standing army. But nukes, a belief in deterrence, and the growing realization that Kashmir is a lost cause, have freed the army from the hard life of the trenches. Ideology is increasingly irrelevant as the officer class scrambles to build vast personal fortunes.

A look at Pakistan's economic landscape says it all. The chief executive officers of many, if not most corporations, public and private, are retired military officers—many fairly young. The military owns airlines and freight companies, petrochemical factories, power generation plants, sugar mills, cement and fertilizer plants, construction firms, banks and insurance companies, advertising agencies, and more. Vast tracts of prime real estate in cities, sold to officers for a pittance, have turned into mega housing developments.

Musharraf defends the military acquisitions, claiming that they are economically efficient, and angrily dismisses criticism as the ranting of unpatriotic Pakistani pseudo-intellectuals. But they are "efficient" only in the sense that they dampen the threat to Musharraf posed by the military.

No so Pakistan's Islamists, however, whom Musharraf infuriated yet again last month, when he ordered his foreign minister to initiate the first official contact with Israel. But the Islamists' call for nationwide protests flopped. The military, after decades of rule, has dismantled all forms of political organization—parties, trade unions and student associations—leaving a Pakistani society immobilized, apathetic and incapable of articulating its preferences.

As Islamists' anger at Musharraf's betrayals increases, so does his global standing and image as a world statesman. Scenes of wild-eyed mullahs demonstrating in the streets of Pakistani cities are a boon to his position. Surely the Pakistani public needs to be tamed by a strongman. No harm if it is an army general.

But the truth is more complex. Musharraf flits effortlessly between personae. At one moment he is the "responsible" world leader who speaks charmingly to the international media about moderate Islam; at the next, he is the cunning conspirator who rigs elections, destroys political opponents, breaks promises on relinquishing power, enters into mutually beneficial relationships with mullahs and castigates human-rights activists as "Westernized fringe elements" that "are as bad as the Islamic extremists."

To forestall the possibility of a coup, the army is being cleansed of hardline Islamists. Soldiers charged with mutiny have received the death penalty. This process has deepened pro- and anti-US divisions within the army, both among commissioned and non-commissioned officers, but nothing in Pakistan today suggests that radical change is imminent.

To be sure, more incidents of global terrorism associated with Pakistan, such as July's London bombings, will bring new pressures. The United States and Europe will make their usual demands to close down the country's hate-spewing madrassas, and to reform a public-school system that, unhindered by the government, churns out young militants burning to kill and die for Islam.

For Musharraf, this means that continuing to hunt with the hounds and run with the hares might get harder. But the current constellation of forces suggests that, barring unforeseen developments, his survival instincts will serve him well for years to come.

Project Syndicate

Pervez Hoodbhoy is a professor of Physics at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

THEY SAID

Spineless

"He is gutless and spineless. He didn't even have the courtesy to tell me in person."

—Insurance Commissioner Benjamin Santos on Finance Secretary Margarito Teves who fired him through a letter

Violent scheme

"(Today) there is a concerted, systematic and violent scheme to vanquish the truth and dupe the people."

—Fr. Ben Moraleda, co-convenor of Sinag, an inter-religious alliance of priests, nuns and laity calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo

Hellish money-making

"Kung may pera sa impiyerno, pupunta doon ang negosyante (If there's money in hell, businessmen will go there)."

—Trade Secretary Peter Favila, saying businessmen are tired of politics and would rather engage in making money

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I'd take Filipino anytime

I HONESTLY CAN'T SEE HOW ADOPTING English as our national language, as proposed by letter-writer Samuel Yap, could unify our nation. (PDI, 11/15/05) When I meet Filipinos from other parts of the country, we converse in Filipino. In fact, I remember a guy from Ormoc who, after greeting me in English, immediately switched to the vernacular when I responded in the dialect.

It's not that I am advocating that we totally do away with the English language. If we did that, we would drastically reduce our export of contract workers. Also, it would mean recruitment problems for our call centers. Besides, how could our doctors, nurses, teachers and programmers go to the United States, Singapore and the United Kingdom if they weren't good in English? But then, it's probably where the problem lies.

We're quick to leave our country in pursuit of greener pastures. While Japan and South Korea rose out of the ashes to become the high-tech powerhouses they are today—mind you, without being conversant in English—we can only boast that 10 percent of our people are living or working abroad, while most of us who live here live in poverty. Also, you go to Singapore and Malaysia and speak to their citizens in a language that hardly qualifies as English against the backdrop of skyscrapers, flyovers, broadband Internet and the latest gadgets. English proficiency was not much of a factor in their success.

In fact, their limitations in English forced their professionals to think long and hard about how to improve the situation of their country; unlike here, where we think long and hard about where we should first apply for immigration. I don't know about Yap, but in the places where I've been to, I have been speaking to our countrymen in Filipino. From the beaches of Pangasinan, to the *carenderias* of Pampanga, to the university town of Dumaguete, to the mountains of Leyte and Bicol, to the bustling city of Davao, to the remote islands of Antique and even in the jeepney terminals of Cebu, I get around speaking Filipino and not English. Even in my classes, I teach in Filipino. In fact, my students complain when I lecture in English because they have a hard time understanding concepts introduced in that stuffy, very foreign language. I don't know about other people, but I like the fact that we have a national language—Filipino.

It may not be perfect, but it is our own. Some Cebuanos may be protesting its use, but isn't calling Cebuano Bisaya just as snobbish as calling Tagalog Filipino? Stick, if you wish, to English, your ivory-tower tongue. I'd take Filipino with me wherever I go around the country, comfortable with the fact that I have a much bigger chance of being understood and accepted as one of our own, a Filipino.

—ARI LUIS HALOS,
alch@mudspring.uplb.edu.ph

Basketball in SEA Games now in Lina's court

THE CURRENT RIFT BETWEEN THE Philippine Olympic Committee and the Basketball Association of the Philippines, which has led to the banning of the Philippines from any Fiba-sanctioned tournament, is very disgusting, to say the least. It will deprive our worthy national basketball team, composed mostly of the Philippine Basketball Association's best players, of the chance to win tournaments, including the gold medal in the SEA Games to be held here in the Philippines starting this November.

There's been a lot of charges and countercharges on who's to blame and where the fault lies. Some quarters have insinuated that politics was behind the expulsion of the BAP by the POC and Fiba's interference. It is most likely that basketball will not be played in the Games.

However, there's still a glimmer of hope, if all the contending parties set aside their own personal interests and pride. There's still time that this impasse will be resolved as long as the two feuding organizations, the POC and the BAP, come to terms and forge a "win-win" compromise with only the best interest of the nation in mind. Here's my proposal:

1. The POC recalls its expulsion of the BAP, thus recognizing the BAP as the authority on amateur basketball in the country. This will result in Fiba reaffirming its earlier recognition of the BAP.

2. The BAP must relinquish the authority of choosing and fielding a national team to the POC, which has given the PBA-supported team the blessing to represent the country in international competitions.

The second condition is very crucial and key to the issue. I believe this was the bone of contention when the BAP reneged on its "agreement" with the POC and other bodies on the formation of a national team. The BAP should not insist on fielding its "own" team for there is no other team stronger than the one formed by the PBA at the moment. The ball is now in Joey Lina's court.

—JEROME L. ESCOBEDO,
Lapu-Lapu City,
Jerome.Escobedo@dalsemi.com

Bad precedent

IT IS DISTURBING TO KNOW THAT THE Benguet provincial board has passed a resolution citing Section 6 of RA 8485 ("The Animal Welfare Act of 1998") as an excuse to butcher dogs and to protect establishments selling dog meat. (PDI, 11/11/05)

Section 6 states: "The killing of any animal other than cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos, horses, deer and crocodiles is likewise hereby declared unlawful." The exception to this rule is clear—when the killing of the animals (in this case, dogs) is done in "religious rituals of [an] established religion or sect or a ritual required by tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous cultural communities."

If the lawmakers of the province of Benguet imply that dog-meat eating is required by the custom of the indigenous peoples of the Cordillera, I would want to know, as a Filipino, what our Department of Tourism says about this suggestion. Does it see an exciting cultural practice that is worth incorporating in its WOW Philippines program? What ethnic or tribal ritual can be conducted inside eateries and restaurants that we, Filipinos, can showcase to the whole world to see? If, indeed, slaughtering dogs is an ethnic ritual, may the selling and consumption of dog meat justify the declaration of a region's eateries and restaurants as sacred religious sites and, therefore, they should be left alone by the police to sell dog-meat dishes?

The Benguet provincial board's resolution on this issue, even if it limits the trade within the Cordillera region, irresponsibly sets a bad precedent that is definitely in poor taste (pun intended).

One cannot guess what might be adopted in the future due to this suggestion. For one, this opens the possibility of a Filipino sect declaring that field rat-eating is part of its ritual. What then would we, as a people, be projecting to the global community? The DOT should make a clear and firm stand on this issue or it will be "bow-wow-wow" Philippines from hereon.

Furthermore, just because dog-meat eating is purportedly a "cultural practice" does not necessarily mean it is right. Slavery was once a cultural practice in England. So is female circumcision in some countries in Africa. Would the author of the resolution want his daughter mutilated in accordance with a "cultural practice"?

Our country is in the 21st century, and we have a reputation of being educated and highly sophisticated. Why does this board member want us to go back to the ways of the dark ages?

Finally, let me quote a noted literary figure, George Bernard Shaw: "Animals are my friends, I don't eat my friends."

—LUIS BUENAFLOR JR.,
senior researcher/spokesman,
Animal Kingdom Foundation Inc.,
brotherlouieph@yahoo.com

Old-fashioned

WE THANK THE INQUIRER FOR ITS EXCELlent editorial about manners (PDI, 10/18/05), for paying attention to this subject matter. I applaud the INQUIRER for giving this subject an important place in the paper. You are probably more aware than I am of the decline of civilized behavior in our society.

It is appalling when we see around us—among our friends, relatives, people in the media—uncouth behavior. I attribute this to ignorance and to self-pride; but most of all, to lack of thought and carelessness. Good manners are first learned at home, and then reinforced in school. However, many parents themselves have no idea at all about good manners.

We must realize that good manners are never outmoded. In fact, to behave like a savage is to be old-fashioned.

—LUZ-JOYCE FRESNOA-ANDERSON,
28 Hill Drive cor. 3rd Avenue,
Beverly Hills, Antipolo, Rizal

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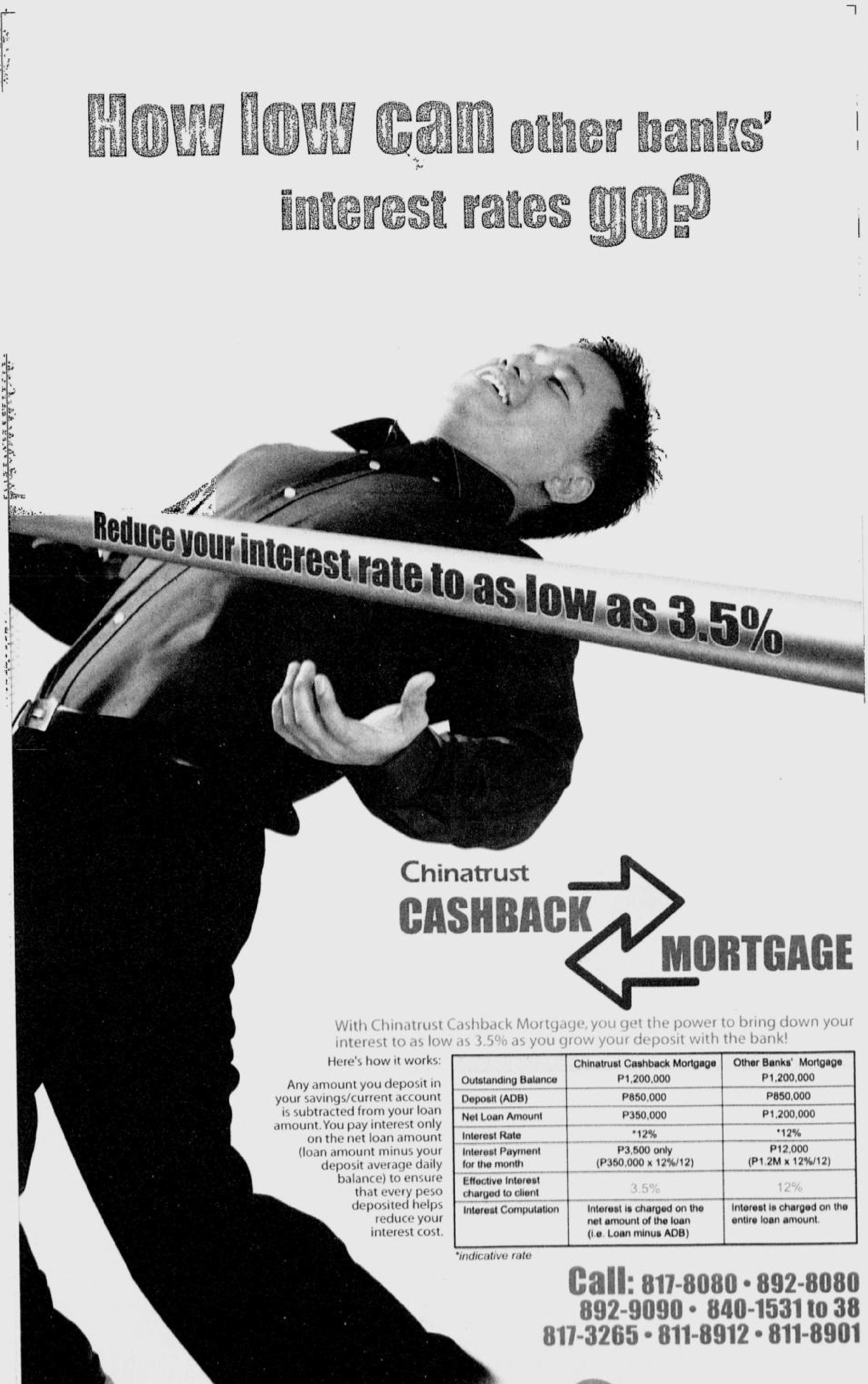
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Controversial ex-cop gunned down

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PLARIDEL, BULACAN—FLORENCIO "REY" PAREÑA, a former policeman who was tagged as the top henchman of a suspected drug lord, was gunned down by armed men in Barangay Poblacion here on Sunday morning.

Police said Pareña, 53, was driving his Ford pickup truck when the armed men, wearing ski masks, shot him at about 6:30 a.m.

Supt. Arthur Felix Asis, Plaridel police chief, said the suspects, who were aboard a van and another vehicle, blocked Pareña's path as he was driving near a Church in Barangay Poblacion here.

Police said the suspects were armed with 9 mm pistols and Armalite rifles and shot Pareña at close range.

Asis said they were looking into the conflict in the illegal drug trade or a personal grudge as possible motives for the attack.

He confirmed Pareña's continued involvement in the illegal drug trade in Bulacan, saying the former policeman remained in the police's order of battle against suspected drug lords.

Pareña's involvement in the illegal drug trade surfaced in 1997 when he was named as the top henchman of suspected drug lord Alfredo Tiongco.

Tiongco topped the National Bureau of Investigation's list of illegal drug kingpins in the country. Police and media reports described Tiongco as the alleged "godfather" of illegal drugs syndicates and had senators, politicians and police and military officials as his protectors.

Tiongco was also chair of the board of directors of the Bulacan-based weekly newspaper Luzon Pen, which Pareña published.

'Freedom of spit' in Bontoc curtailed

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—OFFICIALS of Barangay Poblacion (town center) here have curtailed the residents' "freedom of spit" and their chances to paint the town red.

More than 20 residents who chew momma (or moma), a betel nut concoction, were warned by the police not to spit on pavements and walls in the town center or else they would be fined by as much as P500.

Momma is a mixture of betel or areca palm nut, gawed or piper vine leaves and lime or burnt and ground seashell.

Residents said people in the central Cordillera have long practiced momma chewing because it staves off hunger and fatigue.

But the resulting spittle from the momma is rusty or blood red and is hard to clean. As a result, most of the walls and pavement in the business district here have a distinctively red sheen.

Town officials have asked the four urban barangays of central Bontoc—Poblacion, Ili, Samoki and Caluttit—to enact ordinances to penalize indiscriminate spitting of momma.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Militant leader in Angeles slain

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AN ORGANIZER of the urban poor group Kadamay was shot dead in Angeles City on Saturday, reports from the police and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said.

Errol Sending was walking on Burgos Street in Barangay Lourdes Sur in that city when one of two men, on board a motorcycle, shot him in the chest and stomach.

Reports from Bayan said Sending, also a member of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Pampanga, was the 21st victim of extra-judicial killings by suspected military hit men in Central Luzon since September this year.

Roman Polintan, Bayan Central Luzon chair, described Sending's murder as "another attack on progressive leaders by the military in their reign of terror."

The most recent attacks on activists in the region happened on Oct. 25 and 26. These killed Hacienda Luisita labor leader Ricardo Ramos, Bayan Pampanga leader Francisco Rivera and his two companions, and Bulacan transport leader Federico de Leon.

"This again confirms the military's aim of annihilating the leaders and organizers of Bayan and its affiliate organizations," Polintan said.

He said he could not think of any other suspect with such motive and capability as the military.

The military's Northern Luzon Command and Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr., chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division covering Central Luzon, had denied roles in the killings, pointing to the enemies of communist groups as possible suspects. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Negros town seen ethanol plant site

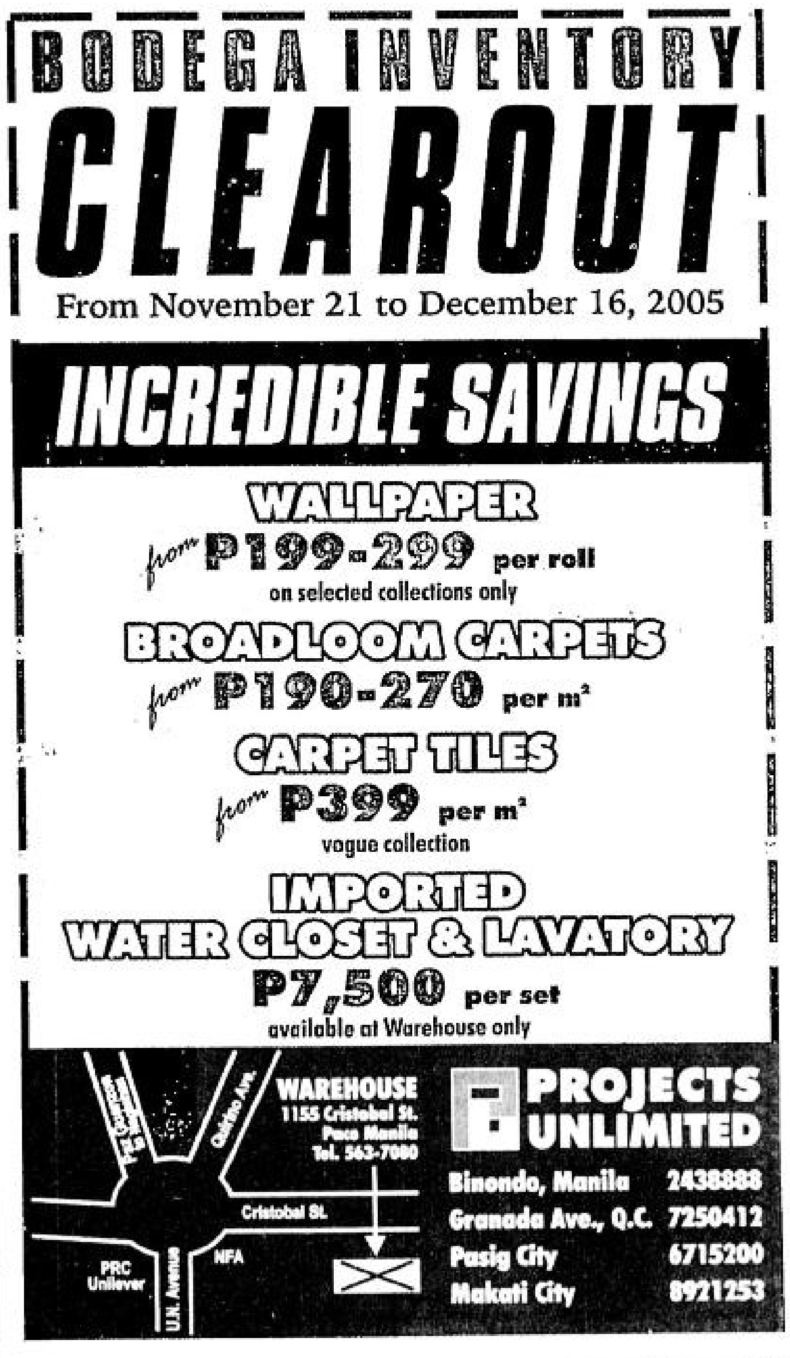
DUMAGUETE CITY—THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT and businessmen from Negros Oriental are now taking steps for the construction of an ethanol plant in Sta. Catalina town, about 85 km south of here.

Gov. George Arnaiz said Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves, businessman Julio Sy and other local entrepreneurs were seriously considering putting up an ethanol plant in Tamlang Valley.

The governor was with Teves and other provincial officials in China to visit some ethanol plants there.

The Tamlang Valley is a 16,000-hectare government land located in the mountains of Valencia, Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Sibulan towns.

Arnaiz said that with the help of the provincial government and the National Development Corp., Teves and his partners would commission experts from China to formulate a plan for the plant. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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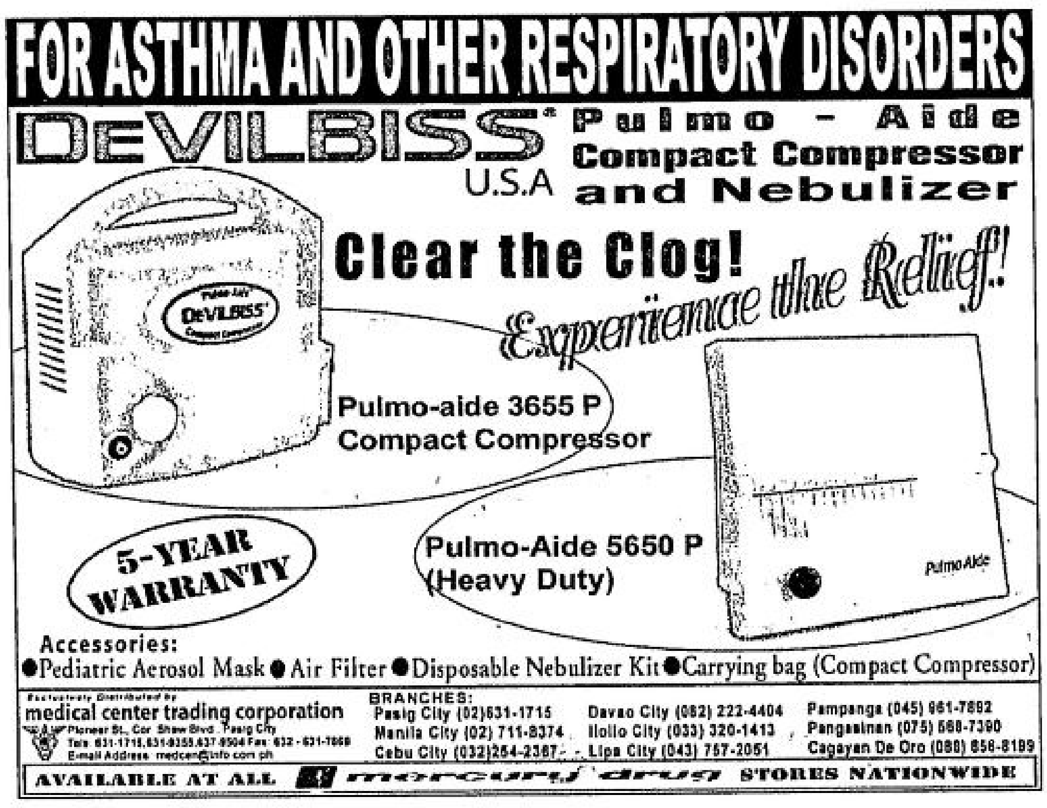

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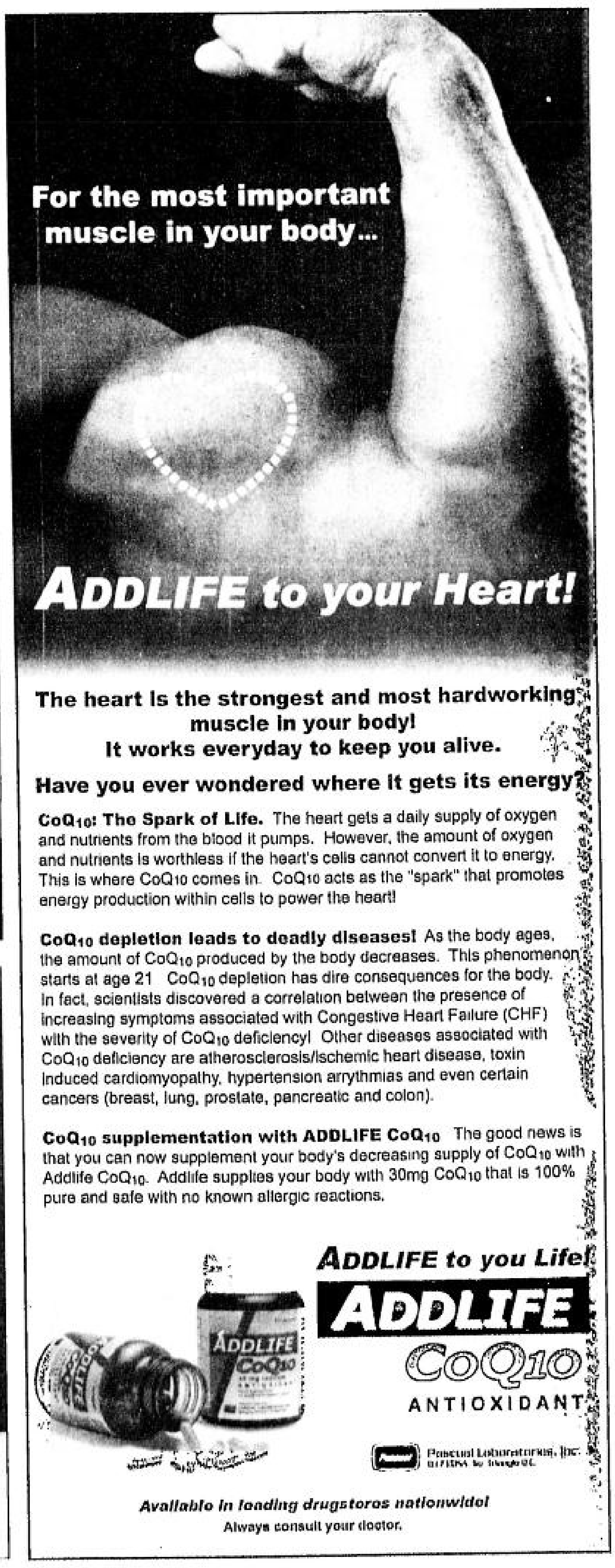

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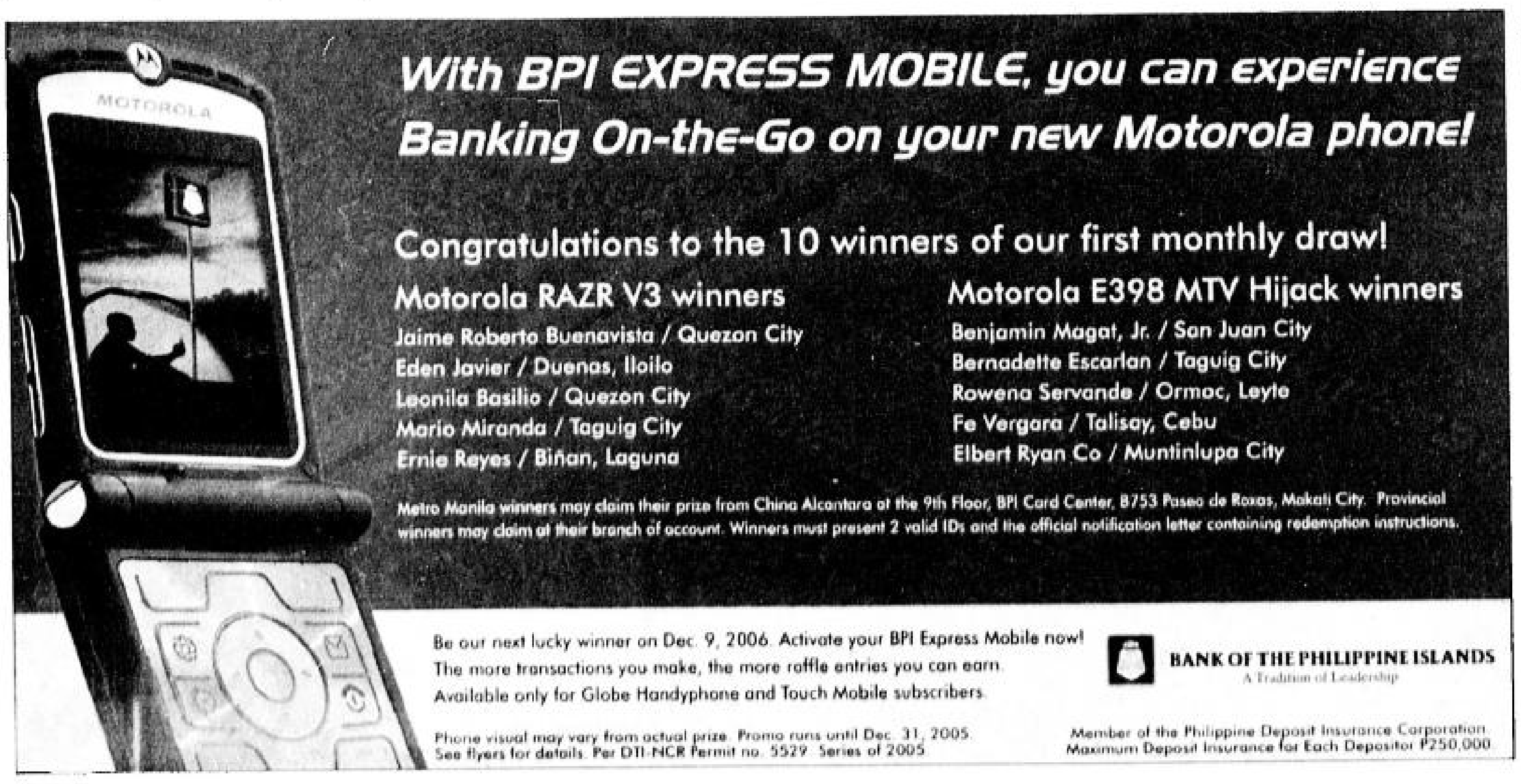

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MILF to get safe conduct passes

COTABATO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT WILL issue safe conduct passes to leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), who would attend the opening ceremonies of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said.

Piñol said that Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Peping Cojuangco, who is also Philippine SEAG organizing committee head, had informed him that President Macapagal-Arroyo has already approved the issuance of safe conduct passes, which would allow MILF officials to travel to the SEAG opening.

"The government will provide safe conduct passes. Official invitations will soon follow," Piñol said quoting Cojuangco.

Piñol earlier urged MILF leaders to attend the SEAG opening so they could show to the world they are for peace.

"Their participation as guests would be an opportunity to show to Muslim leaders in Southeast Asia that peace efforts are gaining ground in Mindanao," he said.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said that "in all likelihood, Chair Murad (Ebrahim) may come and join other Asean leaders in the opening program."

Kabalu even joked that the MILF could also send a basketball team to play exhibition games.

He said that by middle of next week, the MILF, after holding a central committee meeting, will come out with a statement on who among its leaders would attend the SEAG.

Piñol said he was even willing to accompany Murad, MILF political affairs chief Ghadzali Jaafar and other MILF officials from the Cotabato airport to Manila to show his support for the peace process. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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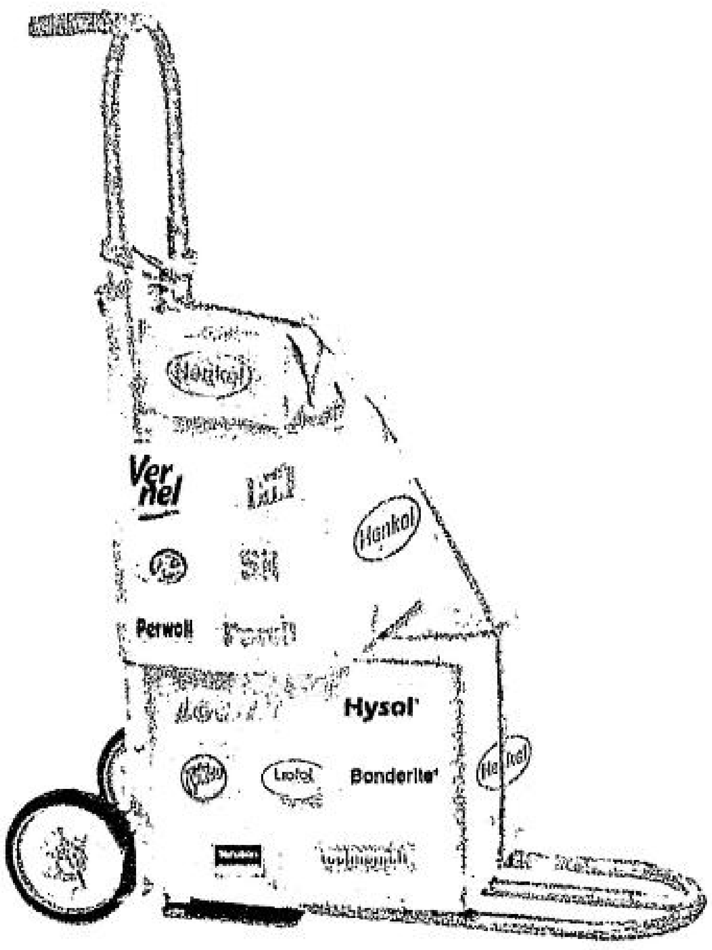

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Sierra Madre logging denounced

LUCENA CITY—RENEWED LOGging by Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI) in the Sierra Madre portion of General Nakar town has met strong opposition from multisectoral groups in Quezon.

Johnny Glorioso, chair of the Quezon Provincial Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Council committee on information, called as "reprehensible and questionable" the renewed operation of TFPI, owned by Bulacan logger Wilson Ng, under its Integrated Forestry Management Agreement (Ifma) with the government that covers 36,660 hectares.

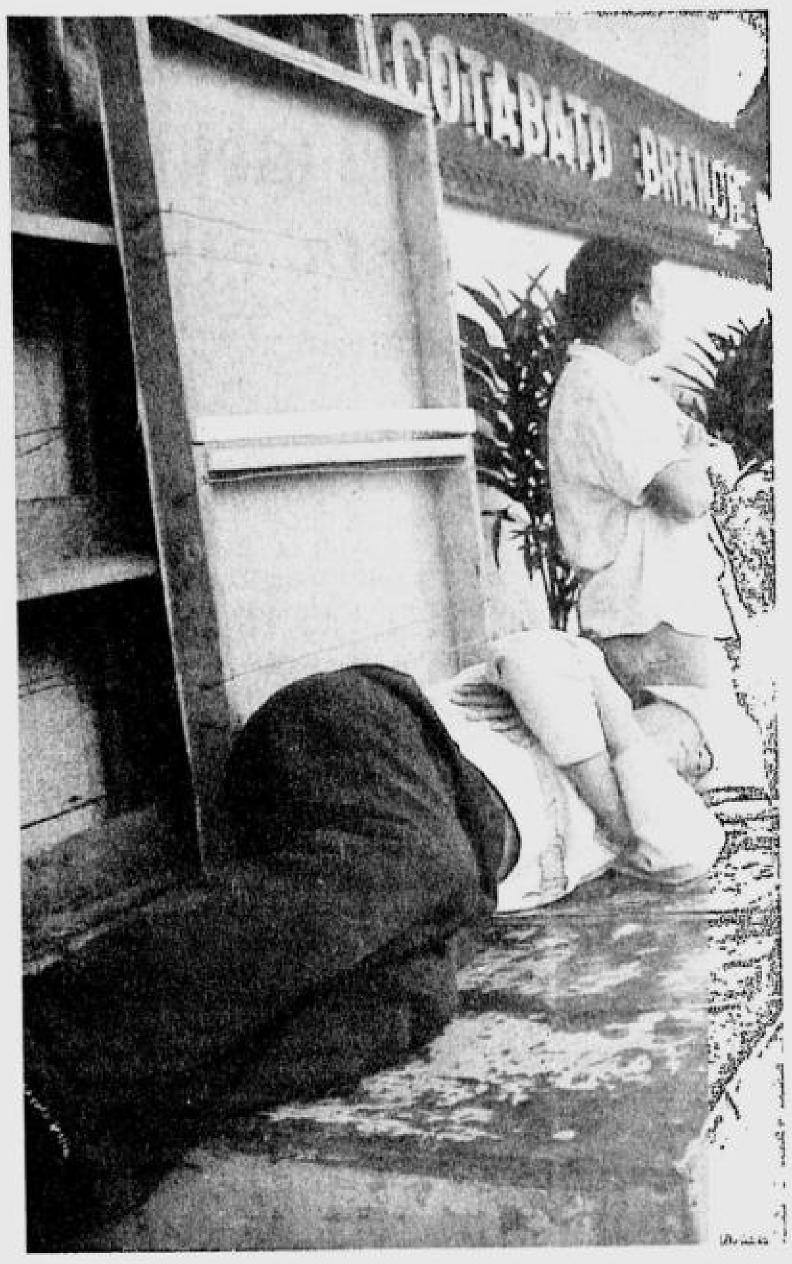
Glorioso claimed that the reinstatement of TFPI's Ifma was without public hearing.

General Nakar town Mayor Hernando Avellaneda, whose election victory was nullified by a court, also expressed surprise when he was informed that the Ifma had been reinstated.

"How could that be? It doesn't have any endorsement from the local government," he said.

Lawyer Asis Perez, executive director of Tanggol Kalikasan, a public interest environmental legal defense center, said they also learned from unofficial sources that TFPI's Ifma had been reinstated.

Ng admitted to the INQUIRER that his forestry contract had been reinstated after he made an appeal to Malacañang. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



AT REST JEOFFREY MAITEM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
An unidentified man finds sleep on the sidewalk near a bank along Sinsuat Avenue in Cotabato City.

ROUNDUP

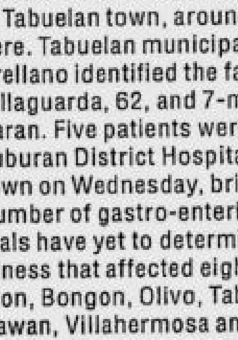
Gastro kills 2, downs 43

CEBU CITY—Two persons died while 43 others had fallen ill due to acute gastroenteritis in Tabuelan town, around 87 km northwest of here. Tabuelan municipal health officer Edna Arellano identified the fatalities as Laurito Villaguarda, 62, and 7-month-old Gerald Albaran. Five patients were brought to the Tuburan District Hospital in nearby Tuburan town on Wednesday, bringing to 43 the total number of gastro-enteritis cases. Health officials have yet to determine what triggered the illness that affected eight villages—Poblacion, Bongon, Olivo, Tabunok, Mabunao, Tigbawan, Villahermosa and Dalid. Aside from contaminated water source, Arellano said, one possible cause could be food contaminated by flies coming from different poultry farms in the villages.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Case vs judge dropped

ROXAS CITY—An 18-year-old man is no longer interested in pursuing the frustrated homicide case against a retired judge who allegedly shot him in the leg on Nov. 5. SPO4 Felimon Guillen Jr., acting police chief of Mambusao town, said Henry Olano told him that he would file an affidavit of desistance at the Municipal Trial Court of Mambusao where the case against retired MTC Judge Luney Corcino was filed. Guillen said Olano decided not to pursue the case after Corcino shouldered his expenses in the hospital where he was confined for a bullet wound in the leg. Olano earlier accused Corcino of shooting him after he and his two friends played with firecrackers in front of the judge's home in Poblacion Proper, Mambusao. Corcino denied the allegation, saying he just went out of the house to check who played with the firecrackers. He also denied owning a gun.
Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cop chief axed


YOU'RE Fired!

MANAOAG, Pangasinan—For his supposed failure to maintain the cleanliness of the new local police station, the police chief here was relieved by Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao on Sunday. Lomibao, in a surprise visit to the police station that was inaugurated on Oct. 16, found the place dirty and relieved Chief Insp. Jerich Royales. Royales was not in the station when Lomibao arrived. Royales, who served as police chief of this pilgrimage town for more than a year, said he immediately packed his bags after learning of his relief. Pangasinan police director Supt. Alan Purisima appointed Insp. Asedillo Manibog as acting town police chief. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Exec slain in ambush

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Unidentified gunmen killed a town councilor of Magpet, North Cotabato during an ambush on Wednesday but spared his wife and two children, Magpet Mayor Efren Piñol said. Gerry Lingaro, 35, was driving his family on their way here when two ski mask-wearing gunmen appeared and opened fire on the councilor, Piñol said. The gunmen fled on foot. Piñol said Lingaro had just attended the municipal council session and was driving his vehicle when attacked.
Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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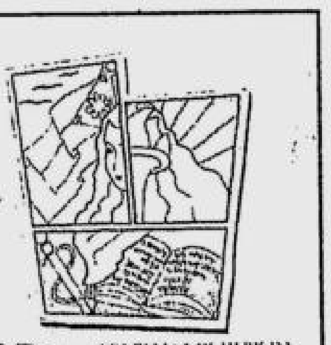
UP College of Medicine
Department of Physiology



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Celebrating the Legacy... Making a Difference...

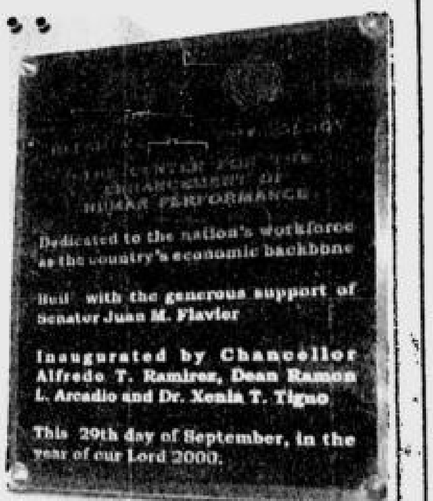
1st Row (LtoR) Drs. CC Roa, DD Bonzon, CV Tomas, ZG Bagabaldo, SN Vios, RT Quintos *2nd Row: (LtoR)* Drs. ES Montomayor, CH Manabat, DA Dusig, LT Ibañez, JP Evangelista *3rd Row: (LtoR)* RA Ramos, CR Vylingco, EM Legaspi and WD de Leon. *Not in photo:* Drs. DV Diaz, MD Buenaluz, LG Genuino and NJ Labio

Schedule of Activities:

22 November , 2005

- Grand Centennial Lecture: Dr. Alberto G. Romualdez, Jr.
- Special Recognition Awards Ceremony
- Launching of "Lecture Notes in Integrative Physiology"
- Inauguration of the Basic Science Laboratories

Housed in each of the three floors of Salcedo Hall (formerly the Medical Annex Building), are the Departments of Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology. As integral components of the college, these departments have through the years been in the forefront of training, research and service in their respective scientific disciplines. And as the UP College of Medicine celebrates the hundredth year of its foundation this year, these departments join the whole UPCM family in the reaffirmation of its commitment to excellence in the delivery of health care to the Filipino people.



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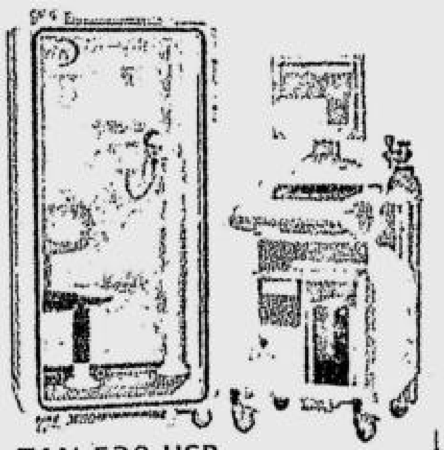
It is this commitment that inspired the Department of Physiology to establish the Center for the Enhancement of Human Performance (CEHP) in 2000. Envisioned to become its research, training and service arm, the department organized the center with the long-term vision of helping produce a highly effective and physiologically fit Filipino workforce. To achieve such a goal, it is the aim of the CEHP to apply scientific methodology in the assessment of the work performance of Filipinos for the development of strategies and recommendations to maximize the ability of the Filipino workforce to adapt to constantly changing demands of the work environment. This it does through a research-oriented holistic perspective and in an integrative and collaborative manner. As part of the department's training facility, it has likewise provided valuable opportunities for students, in both undergraduate and graduate programs, to apply physiological principles to address real-life issues. And the Department of Physiology, presently under the chairmanship of Dr. Ma. Salome N. Vios, confirms its commitment to service, with the CEHP, now on its 5th year, continuing to offer quality diagnostic procedures especially for the underserved.

The different subspecialties of Physiology are well represented in the CEHP, which is located on the second floor of Salcedo Hall. The Cardiovascular laboratory has top of the line equipments including an ultrasound machine that can perform transcranial Doppler studies and an ambulatory blood pressure monitor. The center has a complete cardiopulmonary exercise (CPX) equipment that is able to evaluate complaints of dyspnea, enabling the separation of cardiac from pulmonary cases. For healthy asymptomatic subjects, the CPX is able to gauge the ability of the person to tolerate heavy sports.



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The Pulmonary laboratory is fully equipped for performing spirometry for pulmonary function tests. Recently, the center has acquired a whole body plethysmograph (body box). Aside from spirometry, this equipment is able to perform detailed studies on airway resistance, lung compliance and closing volumes. Available in the Gastrointestinal Laboratory are an esophageal manometer, a 24-hour pH probe and an anorectal manometer for the evaluation of gastrointestinal motility. Aside from doing nerve conduction velocity and electromyographic studies, the newly acquired EMG-NCV machine in the Neurophysiology Laboratory has the ability to do evoke potential tests and autonomics system tests.

VIVID 3 (GE Ultrasound Machine)

As testimony to the department's commitment to training and research, the second edition of "Lecture Notes in Integrative Physiology" will be launched during the College's Centennial Anniversary. It's forerunner first edition, published in 1998, was the first of its kind in the country.

VACUMED CPET (Cardiopulmonary Exercise Test)

Located on the ground floor of the building, the basic science laboratory of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology has likewise updated its equipment and capabilities. Among the new equipments are the HPLC, UV-visible spectrophotometer and visible spectrophotometer. Added to their available services are new laboratory analyses, including Serum Lactate and Pyruvate levels, Urinary Iodine Excretion, Gamma Glutamyl Transferase activity, HBV DNA Probe and Serum Transferrin level.

Nihon-Kohden MEB 9200 EMG-NCV Machine

The Department of Pharmacology, on the top floor of Salcedo Hall, has recently acquired a High-pressure Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC). This is a modern high-technology instrument that enables measurements of drug and its metabolites in pharmacokinetic/drug metabolism studies, determinations of bio-equivalence of many generic drug preparations in accordance with BFAD-prescribed evaluation of drug quality, and toxicological measurements of dangerous substances that may be found in body fluids that may guide clinicians in the rational management of these patients.

These equipment were made possible through the generous donations by friends of UPCM and alumni through the efforts of Dean Cecilia V. Tomas and former Chancellor, Marita V. T. Reyes, and Blue Sky Trading Co., Inc.

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3rd diocesan synod tackles priests' ethics

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—AMID GROWING CONCERNS over the lack of priests and misconduct among the clergy, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, newly installed president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, has convened a historic diocesan synod that hopes to address various concerns of the clergy and the Catholic faithful.

The three-day synod, which ended Saturday and held at the St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary, is the third for the archdiocese and the first in 72 years.

The first synod was convened by Bishop Dennis Dougherty in 1911 while the second was initiated by Bishop James McCloskey in 1933.

A diocesan synod is composed of priests, lay and religious people whom the bishop summons to assist him in taking care of the archdiocese along with other commissions and groups.

Fr. Robert Amalay, moderator and assistant secretary-general of the synod, said the sessions tackled three of the 14 concerns raised by the commissions of the archdiocese.

These are the life and ministry of the clergy, vocation promotions and concerns of the religious women. The other concerns will be tackled in succeeding sessions.

Changing world

"We need to ask ourselves if we are getting the Church's message across to our flock and if we are still effective in this fast-changing world," Amalay told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Among the proposals included in the working papers or Instrumentum Laboris was the drafting of the Urbanidad Ecclesiastica Sarcedotal, a manual containing a code of ethics for the clergy.

Amalay said the code would serve as a guide in dealing with acts of misconduct committed by priests including excessive gambling, lack of financial and administrative transparency in parishes and sexual misconduct.

The synod was attended by 129 participants including Lagdameo, 63 priests and 51 lay people. The rest were members of religious congregations and representatives from other Christian denominations.

Discussions were "very lively" and ended late at night especially on discussions on the life and ministry of the clergy, said Amalay.

The synod also tacked the growing concern over the continued decline in the number of young men who enter the priesthood.

"At the current rate, the archdiocese will face a shortage of priests in the next ten years," said Amalay.

The ratio of priests to parishioners in the Archdiocese now stands at 1:10,071, way below the ideal ratio of one priest per 4,000 parishioners.

Shortage of priests

Amalay said they need to ordain five priests each year to maintain the current ratio but this year, only three priests were ordained and several priests had also retired.

The synod recommended the implementation of a systematic vocation promotion program "that would touch base in parishes, schools and families," an increase in the archdiocese's financial subsidy to students of the seminary. One of the reasons cited by seminarians who did not enter priesthood was financial difficulty.

Amalay said the synod proposed the giving of a P100,000 fund for retired priests, to be raised from contributions of the clergy.

At present, retired priests in the Archdiocese receive P3,000 monthly from the CBCP and another P5,000 from the Archdiocese.

The participants also recommended that employees of the Church and parishes be given "just compensation" according to labor laws in consideration of the financial capacity of the parishes.

Nuns and members of the religious orders for women sought greater recognition and appreciation in their contribution to the Church.

The recommendations will be submitted to Lagdameo before he promulgates decrees.

Female nursing stude abducted

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A 22-YEAR-old female nursing student was reportedly abducted by still unidentified suspects in San Pablo City on Friday, police said on Saturday.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said hours before she was reported missing, the victim left their house at around 9 a.m. to pay her enrollment fees at the San Pablo Medical College.

Verzosa said an hour after, the victim sent a text message to her boyfriend informing him that she would go home early.

At around 7:45 p.m., the victim's father received a missed call from an unidentified caller.

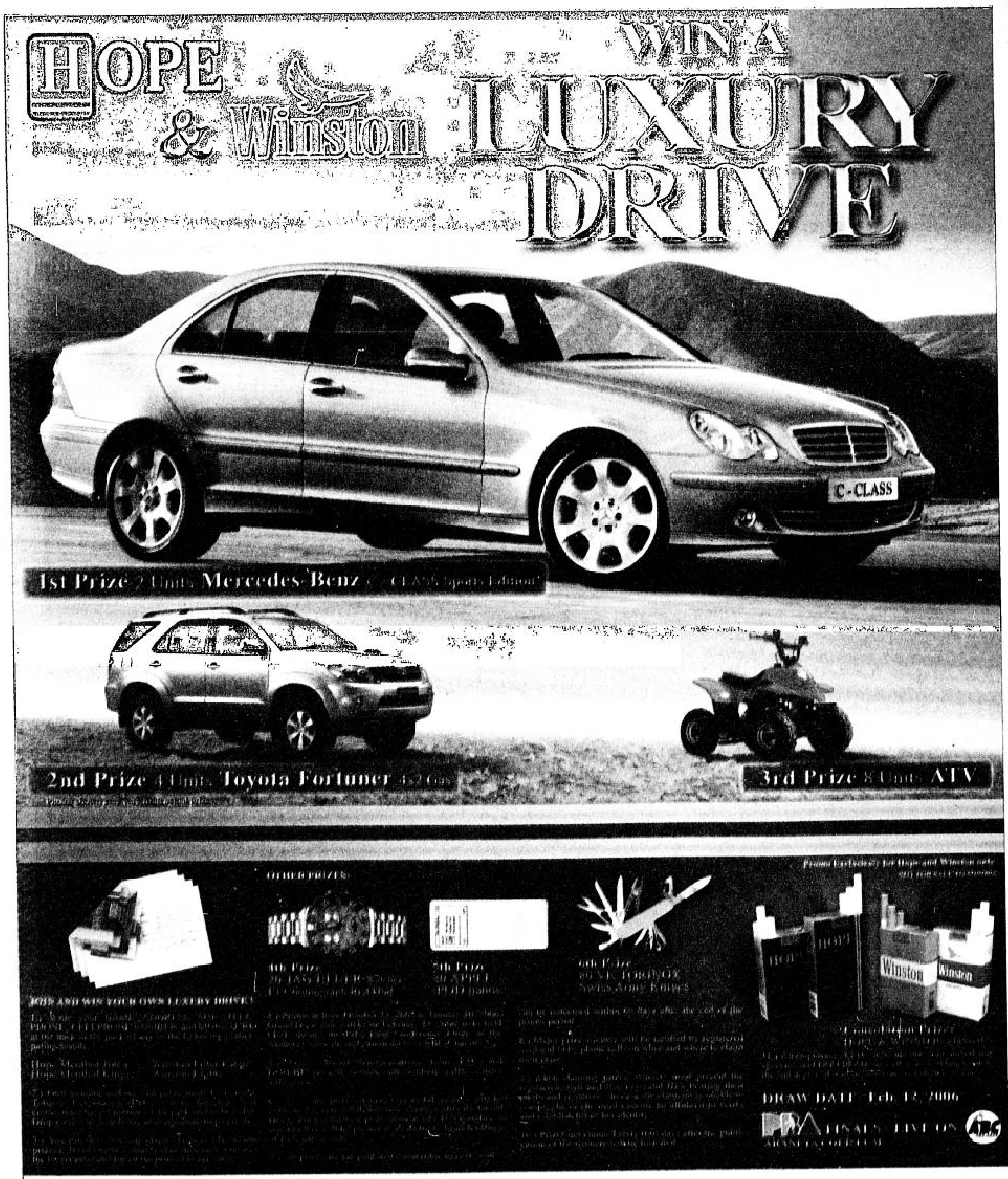
Three hours after, the unidentified caller again phoned the father and told him that "they were holding his daughter."

Police said the caller also instructed the victim's father to prepare P50,000 as ransom money.

The suspect likewise threatened the father that they had only two days to pay the ransom.

Since then, the family had not received a phone call from the suspects.

A source told the INQUIRER that the victim's father, an Army reservist, had sought the help of the Military Intelligence Group based in Camp Eldridge in Los Baños, Laguna. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Sex rap filed vs Neda official

From page A1

hostile or offensive environment" for the complainant, "adversely affecting her, thus constituting sexual harassment."

The Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 says sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or physical conduct of a sexual nature by a superior or someone with authority, influence or moral ascendancy over another.

The law says the forms of sexual harassment include verbal harassment such as derogatory comments, jokes or slurs; physical harassment such as unnecessary or offensive touching or impeding or blocking movements; and visual harassment such as derogatory or offensive posters, cards, calendars, cartoons, graffiti, drawings or gestures.

Bail of P2,000 was recommended by the Office of the Ombudsman for Escandor's temporary release.

Another complaint

Another employee at Neda Central Visayas has also accused the regional director of sexual harassment.

The woman, 30 and married, filed a case against Escandor in the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas on Sept. 24, 2004.

She was hired as a casual employee from 1995 to 2003 and was assigned to the Neda's Fifth Country Program for Children (CPC V).

"Escandor is a man drunk with his power as regional director because he used his position to try and make me give in to his sexual advances knowing that the decision to renew or terminate my employment contract was his alone," she said in her complaint.

The INQUIRER learned that the second complainant was married to an employee of Neda Central Visayas who is facing several administrative complaints that Escandor had filed with the Civil Service Commission.

Black armbands

About 10 Neda employees wore black armbands when they accompanied Cruz on Sept. 1, 2004, in filing the complaint of "disgraceful and immoral conduct and gross moral turpitude" against Escandor in the Office of the Ombudsman.

The victim's husband was also there to give her moral support.

In her affidavit, Cruz said Escandor sexually harassed her from 1994 to 2003. She said she opted to keep quiet for fear that Escandor might get back at her, being her superior officer.

She also said she did not want to come out in the open because it might embarrass her and Escandor's families.

Cruz said she decided to file charges after receiving reports that Escandor had also sexually harassed other women. She, however, refused to say if these women were also working at Neda.

The first incident happened in 1994, according to Cruz. She said she and Escandor were discussing an invitation from the Department of Agrarian Reform when he told her he was falling in love with her.

She said the "immoral advances" were repeated several times. Escandor, she said, sent her text messages, reiterating his feelings for her.

She said Escandor even called her at her home intimating his desire to have sexual relations with her.

"I found Escandor's actions disgraceful. He seemed totally oblivious to the fact that his acts were against good morals and public ethics. He seemed to be undisturbed, observing my feelings of harassment over his immoral advances, and my desperate efforts to look calm and composed," she said in her affidavit.

Chance to clear name

In an interview after Cruz filed the complaint last year, Escandor said the case did not come as a surprise as it was meant to embarrass him.

He had told the INQUIRER that he welcomed the filing of the case because it would give him a chance to clear his name.

Escandor said he believed the filing of the complaint was part of a move to pressure him to leave.

"They (employees) have been threatening that (to file a case against him) after I filed several administrative cases against one of the employees. This is just part of the coordinated move to oust me from office," he had said.

Escandor, however, had declined to comment on the second complaint.

The second woman alleged in her complaint that the director started harassing her in July 1999 when he summoned her to his office for a meeting. She claimed Escandor "grabbed my hand, embraced me and kissed me."

Misery

She also claimed that Escandor sent her messages through the Neda's window computer telling her, "I miss you," "You look nice in your dress" and "I love you more every day."

She said the director subjected her to "severe misery, terror and anxiety for years."

"RD Escandor is without respect not only to my dignity as a woman, wife and mother but also to the dignity of his own wife and family. He is a deceitful man, a hypocrite of the highest order because while doing his unwanted sexual advances to me, he presented himself to the Neda-7 staff as an upright father and husband, and as a moral and honest superior," she said in her complaint.

In her affidavit, she alleged that there were several occasions that she was harassed, citing one instance when Escandor allegedly pulled her toward him and tried to kiss her on the lips.

She said Escandor's advances had made her feel "cheap."

She kept silent for several years out of fear and embarrassment, she said. She said she was emboldened to file her own case after another employee had filed a sexual harassment case against Escandor. *With a report from the PDI Visayas Bureau*

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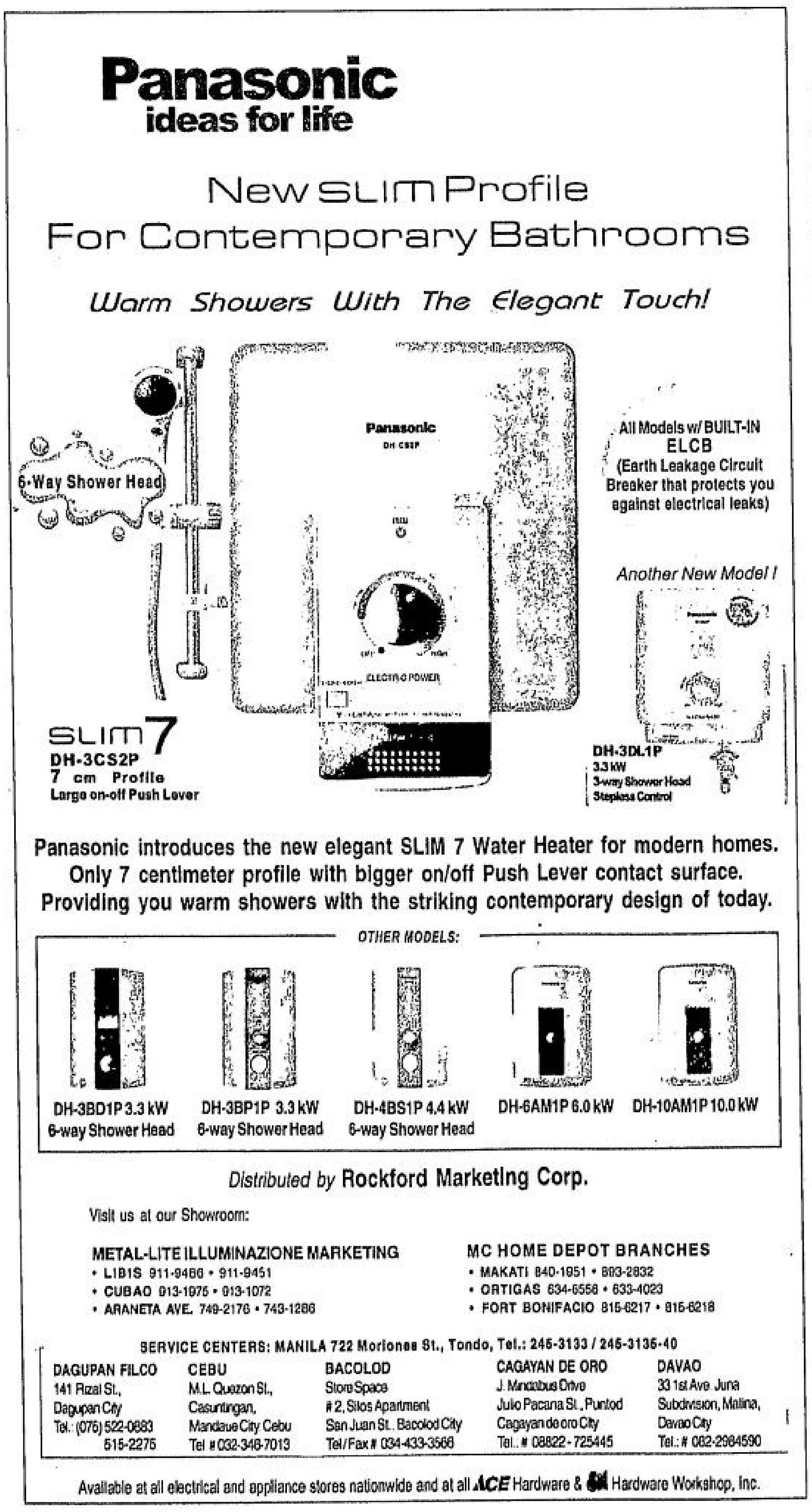
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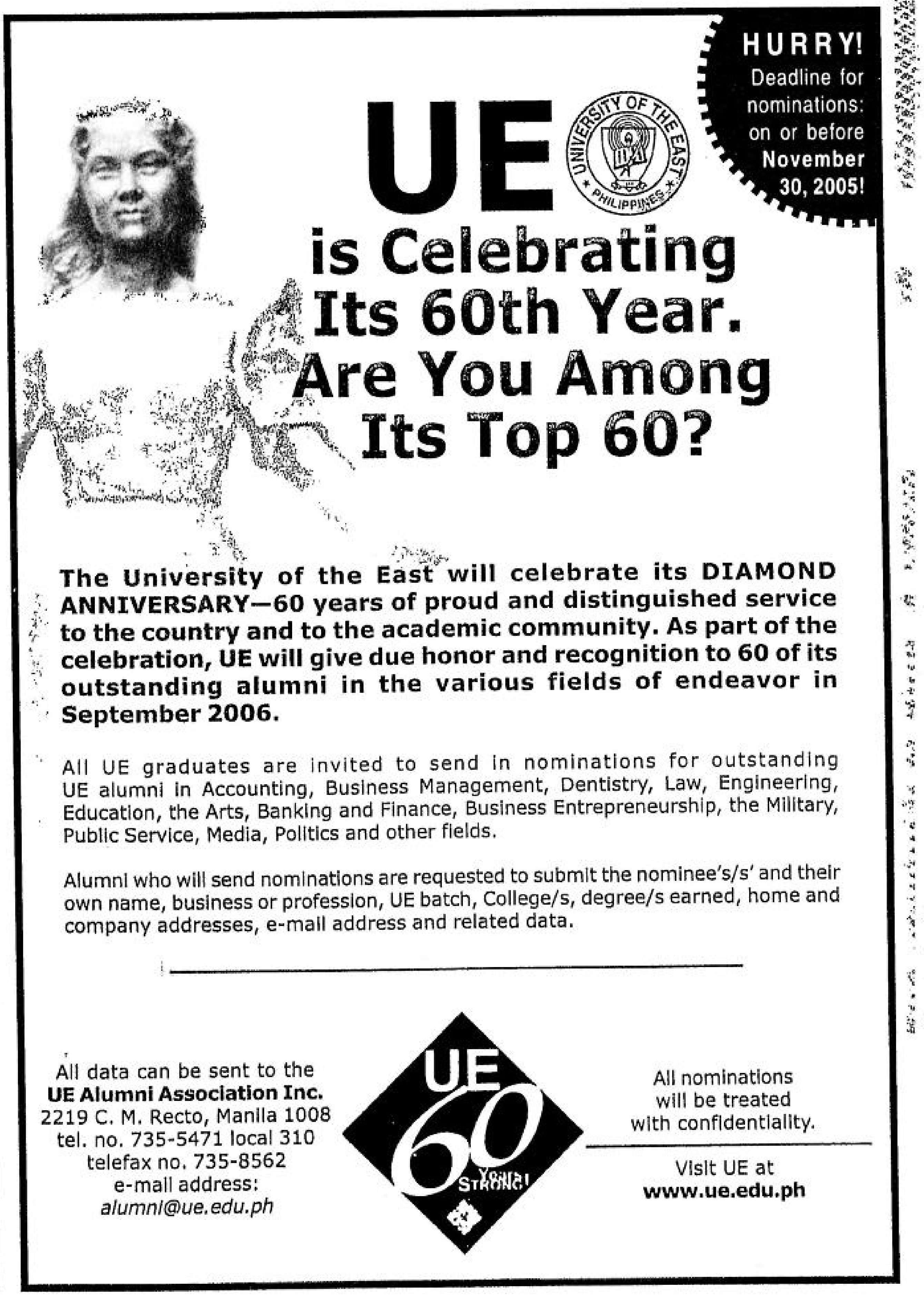
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All UE graduates are invited to send in nominations for outstanding UE alumni in Accounting, Business Management, Dentistry, Law, Engineering, Education, the Arts, Banking and Finance, Business Entrepreneurship, the Military, Public Service, Media, Politics and other fields.
Alumni who will send nominations are requested to submit the nominee's/s' and their own name, business or profession, UE batch, College/s, degree/s earned, home and company addresses, e-mail address and related data.
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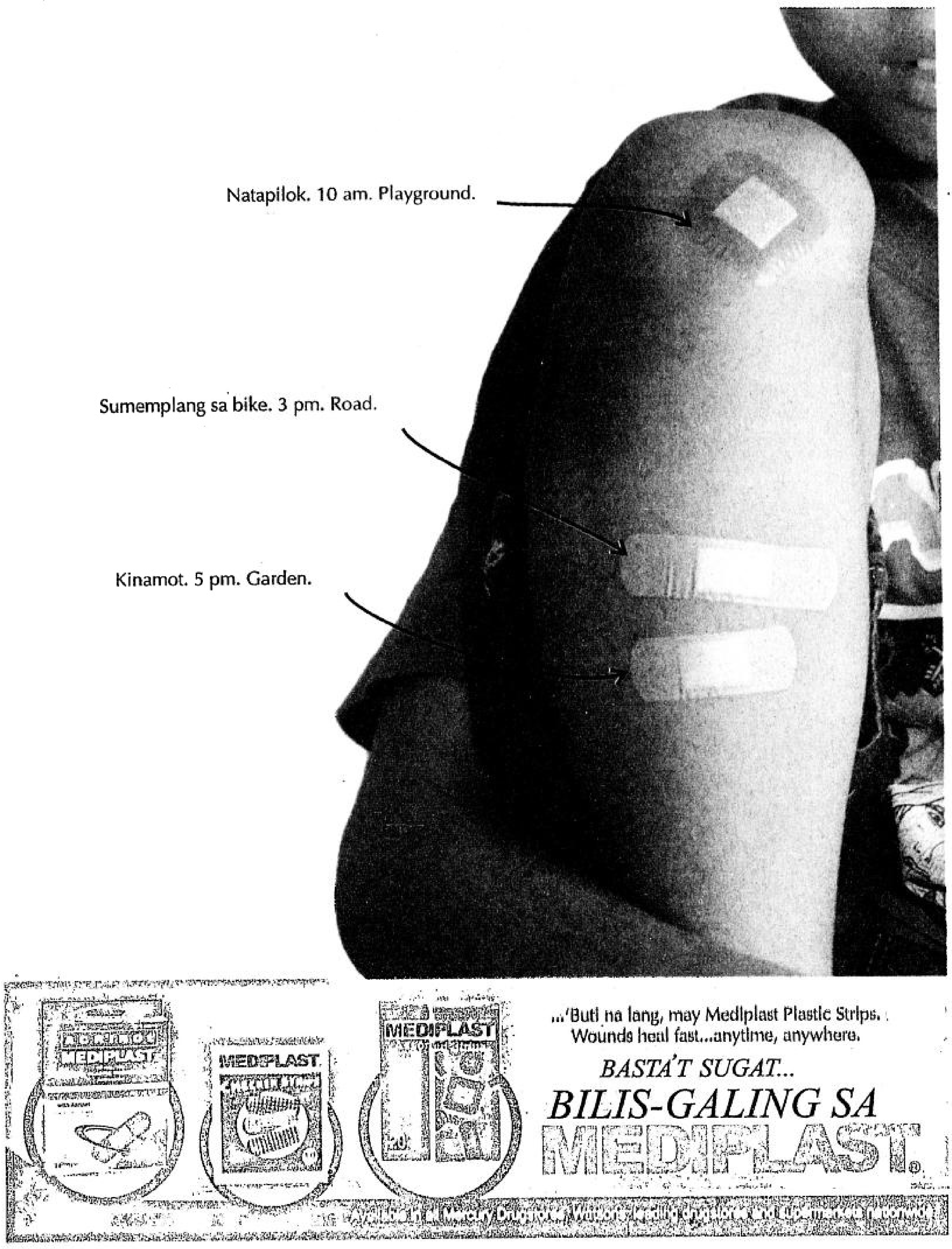
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Commonwealth Avenue among most dangerous roads, says MMDA

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE IN Quezon City remains one of Metro Manila's most dangerous roads.

Data from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) showed that the stretch of Commonwealth Avenue has been the site of an increasing number of accidents involving pedestrians.

A year-on-year comparison of the MMDA's Road Safety Unit (RSU) revealed a rise in road accidents along Commonwealth Avenue that injured and killed pedestrians from 2002 up to the present.

"Majority of the accidents are really caused by the human factor. The incidents we have recorded mostly involved inattentive pedestrians crossing the street," said MMDA Traffic Engineering Center chief Ramon Ona.

RSU's data gathered through the Metro Manila Accident Reporting Analysis System (MMARAS) showed that pedestrians were involved in some 121 accidents along Commonwealth Avenue from January to September this year.

Of this number, 104 incidents caused injuries, while 17 claimed lives. Pedestrian casualties in the last nine months has already exceeded last year's figure of 110 accidents, which included 20 fatal and 104 non-fatal incidents.

Data showed that majority of the incidents involved pedestrians who ignored footbridges and crossed the roughly 95-meter wide road by outrunning passing vehicles.

Commonwealth Avenue, which stretches from Elliptical Road to Regalado Avenue, has at least six lanes on every direction.

In 2003, the RSU recorded 75 accidents on the thoroughfare, including 21 fatal accidents and 54 incidents that injured pedestrians. From June to December 2002, the MMDA recorded 39 accidents involving pedestrians, of which 20 resulted in deaths, while 19 caused injuries.

The figures added up to a total of 345 pedestrian-related incidents on Commonwealth Avenue, including 78 accidents that involved deaths, and 267 that left injured pedestrians.

To reduce the number of accidents, the MMDA has designed a detailed redevelopment of the avenue's 10.2-km stretch set to be started by January .

"We would add footbridges there because we know that there are many accidents involving pedestrians, especially during the weekends," said MMDA assistant general manager Cora Cruz.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Fires kill 2 in Makati, Tondo

A SIX-HOUR FIRE RAZED A shanty compound in Makati City on Saturday, killing one and leaving some 280 families homeless.

The lone fatality was identified as Arturo Morados, 53.

Arson investigator Fire Officer 2 Wilfredo Nardo said Morados was found dead inside the bathroom of a neighbor's house around 8 p.m. the other night in a vast compound at 207 Sunrise Street, Barangay Singkamas, Makati City.

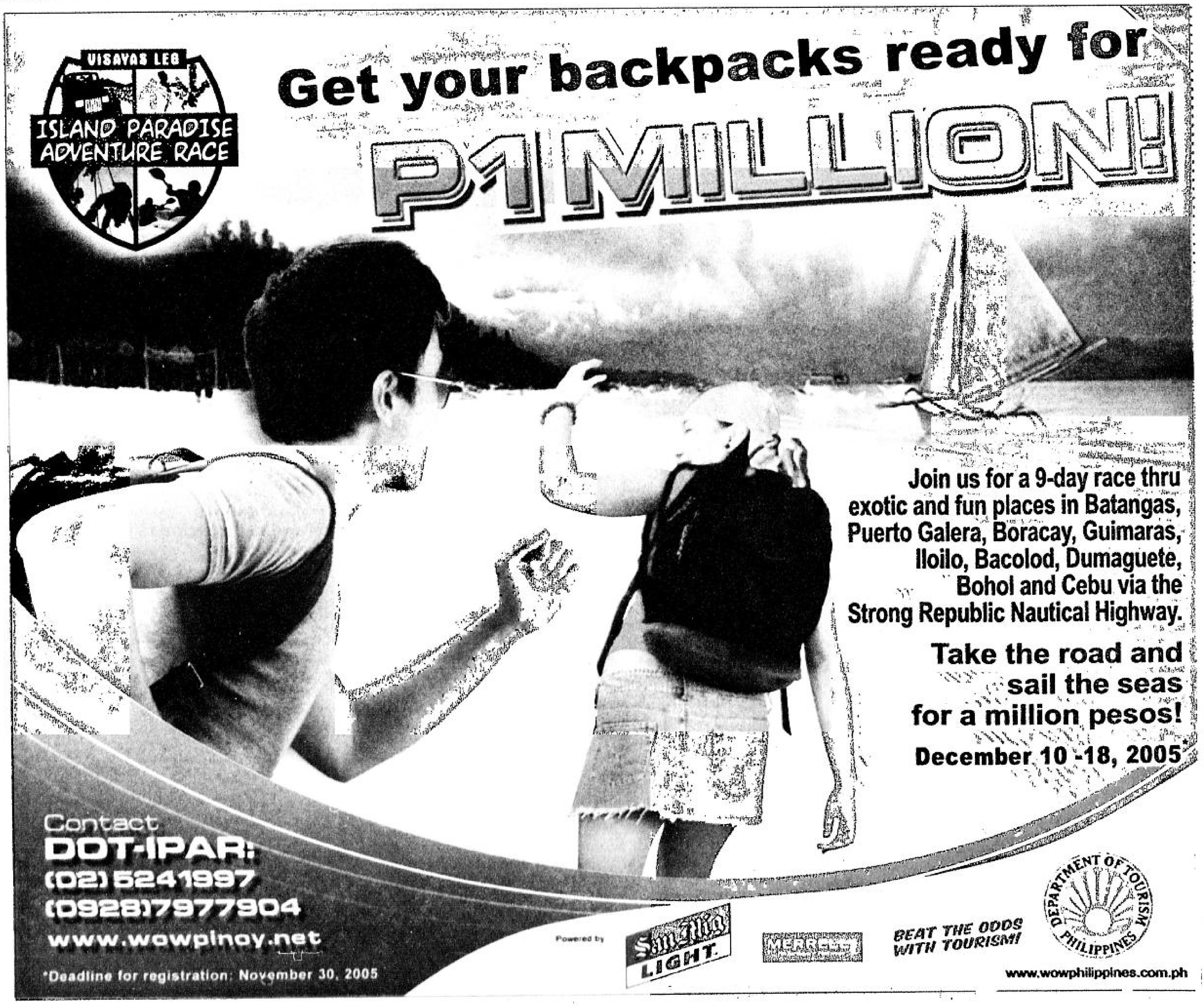
"He had no injuries, and he had no burns. He may have just suffocated. It's possible that he was not able to get out because the house where we found him was way back," Nardo said.

Yesterday morning, another fire hit Tondo, Manila, killing a 5-year-old boy. "This is the third time this year that fire destroyed homes in Parola Compound," SFO1 Emmanuel Gaspar said.

The victim identified as Prince Carlo Fernando was burnt beyond recognition while sleeping on the second floor of the shanty.

Firemen found Fernando lying face down on the kitchen floor, the arson investigator added.

Around 40 shanties and P500,000 worth of property were destroyed by the fire. *Tarra V. Quismundo, Margaux C. Ortiz*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QC's anticarnap unit chief sacked

By DJ Yap

THE CHIEF OF QUEZON CITY'S ANTI-carnapping (Ancar) unit has been relieved of his post following the recent rash of car thefts in the city.

Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr. confirmed on Friday the dismissal late last month of Ancar unit chief P/Supt. Ceasar Tannagan, but declined to say the reason for the relief.

The former Ancar chief's term was marred by the rise of carjackings in the city, with at least 12 cases reported in October alone, not counting parked-car thefts.

Since the start of the year up to Oct. 21, a total of 296 cars was stolen in Quezon City. Of the total, 70 cars were forcibly taken from their owners or drivers while 226 cars were stolen while parked.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza, head of the Police Intelligence Division (PID), was tapped to replace Tannagan. Tannagan, however, will remain a member of the task force headed by Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, Radovan said.

Few carjacking cases in the city have been recorded since Jaraza became Ancar chief.

This, he said, could be a matter of simple luck, or due to the aggressive police campaign against carjackers.

The last carjacking case involved TV show host Iya Villania's black Nissan Patrol which was taken at gunpoint from her driver by two motorcycle-riding men on Nov. 6 on Sgt. Esguerra St. near the ABS-CBN studios.

Villania's car was recovered Thursday from a house in Vista Real Subdivision in Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City during a buy-bust operation conducted by operatives of the Traffic Management Group.

Jaraza used to head the Ancar when the unit was still under the PID. In early 2005, the Ancar split from the PID, so police could concentrate on car theft cases, Radovan said.

Jaraza said agents in civilian clothes would patrol car theft-prone areas, particularly Mindanao Avenue, Kamuning and Anonas areas.

Other carjacking hotspots in the city are Quezon Avenue, Panay Avenue, Timog, Doña Hemady, Tandang Sora and Commonwealth.

He said his intelligence background would help in unmasking the carjacking syndicates prowling the city, especially their financiers.

"It's important to know your enemies. Once you have identified them, then you can apply pressure to flush them out," he said.

Meanwhile, the police were still trying to confirm whether a certain "Jayjay de los Santos" indeed existed.

Patrick Tuzon, one of two men arrested in the Vista Real buy-bust operation, had told the police that it was De los Santos who had asked him to sell or pawn the cars, including Villania's Nissan Patrol.

Tuzon said he simply acted as "the middle man."

"The investigation continues," TMG Special Operations head Supt. Eduardo Bayangos said. "But right now, we have not validated whether this guy is really the person that Tuzon has been transacting with."

"We will summon De los Santos once we obtain his exact address. We'll probably do it on Monday," Bayangos said. *With Luige A. del Puerto*

MMDA may include Sundays in bus scheme

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEvelopment Authority (MMDA) is contemplating on regulating the dispatch of buses during the remaining Sundays of the year in anticipation of the higher commuter volume on Edsa during the yuletide season.

Since late September, the MMDA has been implementing its Organized Bus Route (OBR) system from Mondays to Saturdays. It excluded Sundays from the bus scheme due to the low commuter volume on these days.

"We might need to implement OBR on Sundays because Christmas is approaching, and we expect that many commuters will go shopping and bus operators might think of increasing the buses they dispatch," Mon Santiago, acting chief of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center, said yesterday.

The OBR is a traffic reduction scheme that placed some 2,600 registered buses plying Edsa under MMDA-controlled dispatch, based on commuter volume in bus stops at a given time.

But the MMDA decided to make Sundays an OBR-free day, noting that bus companies and operators themselves limited dispatch during the typically light commuting day.

Santiago said the agency saw the need to reconsider this schedule even just for the remainder of the year since more commuters are expected to travel during the holiday season. The rise in demand would prompt bus companies to field more buses.

Buses plying Edsa pass through main shopping destinations including the commercial establishments in Cubao, the Ortigas and Ayala malls, and shopping centers in Baclaran and Alabang.

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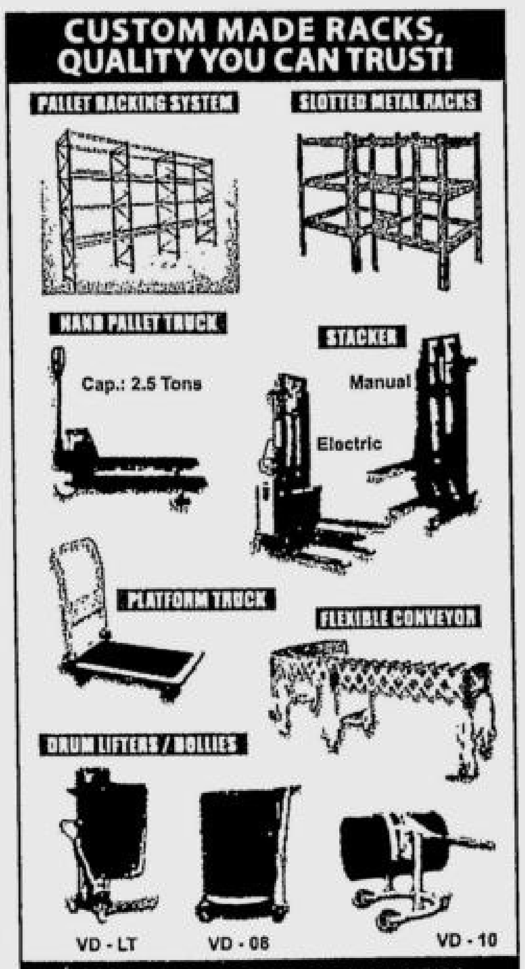

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. V
Rawis, Legazpi City

Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (Rebidding)

1. The Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. V, Rawis, Legazpi City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites duly licensed suppliers/bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Procurement of Office Service Vehicles
Location	Rawis, Legazpi City
Brief Description	Supply and delivery of five (5) units (AUV) Asian Utility Vehicle (4 units with non-sliding doors and one (1) unit with dual sliding doors), 4-cylinder Diesel engine; Displacement 2400cc to 2500cc; Direct injection; Manual Transmission (M/T); Rear wheel drive; Rack & Pinion Power Steering or Recirculating Ball and Nut Steering with Power Assist; Dual Air-con system w/ independent switch control; Car Stereo; Brake System-front discs and rear drum, at least 185/R-14 Tire and Wheels; Mono-tone body color, company Rust-proofing with mudguards; Standard tools with Early Warning Device (EWD); Seat Cover, tint and matting.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P4,000,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at bid opening.

2. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of Bid Documents from the BAC Secretariat starting November 16, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (P2,000.00) pesos cash to the Cashier, COA Regional Office No.V.
3. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on November 29, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at the COA Conference Room, COA Regional Office No. V Compound, Rawis, Legazpi City.
4. Deadline for submission of bids shall be on December 15, 2005, at 9:00 A.M. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at COA Regional Office No. V, Legazpi City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding.
5. The COA Regional Office No. V reserves the right to accept and reject any and all proposals, to declare a failure of bidding, to annul the bidding process, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) WILLY N. GUIRIBA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Contact Person:
Ms. Eleanor A. Macasinag
Head-BAC Secretariat
Tel. Nos. (052)-4820279 or (052) 8216674 or (052) 8201539

(PDI-Nov. 14 & 21, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of La Union
Municipality of Bacnotan

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that the part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government of Bacnotan, through the Bids and Awards Committee (ABC) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippines Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Small B" higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder contract.

Name of Contract	Sipulo-Cabaroan Road Opening (FMR) with 2 RCDG Bridges
Location	Sipulo-Cabaroan, Bacnotan, La Union
Brief Description :	
Approved Budget Cost	P 8,175,442.19
Contract Duration	120 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Dec. 06 – 13, 2005
2 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Dec 06 – 13, 2005
3 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Dec. 13, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Dec 16, 2005
5 Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 16 – 13, 2005
6 Pre-Bid Conference	Dec 26, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Jan 10, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms **at Office of the BAC Secretariat Bacnotan, La Union**, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P 2,000.00 to **the Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union** Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P 5,000.00** to the **Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union** Cashier.

The **Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by
(Sgd.) ENGR. ZALDY D. ALMOITE
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Nov. 21 & 29, 2005)

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL – Chiefs vs Texans; 9:30 a.m. (r-8:30 p.m.); ESPN – Kansas City takes on Houston.
BASKETBALL: NBA – Bulls vs Lakers; 10:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports; Rockets vs Pacers; 7:30 p.m.; RPN 9.

SEA GAMES ON

Underdog Laos nips Myanmar XI

GAME TODAY (Panaad Sports Complex)
4:30 p.m.—Cambodia vs Malaysia

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BANKING ON TIMELY counter-attacks, Laos nipped Myanmar, 3-2, last night at the start of the men's football tournament of the Southeast Asian Games at the Bacolod City Sports Complex here.

Vietnam came from behind to beat Singapore, 2-1, in the second game.

Forward Visay Phaphouvanin struck twice, including the game-winning goal—a neatly placed penalty kick that beat Myanmar keeper Kyaw Min Hlaing in the 79th minute—as Laos pulled off an upset in the very first event of the biennial meet.

"This is good news for the country but we still have to improve," said Laos' Russian coach Valeriv Valirey, whose team went home winless in the 2003 Vietnam Games.

A potential game-tying goal for Myanmar in injury time was nullified after striker Soe Myat Min was ruled offside by linesmen.

Myanmar, a semifinalist in Vietnam, dictated the pace at the start but Laos broke the ice through Davone Vongsamany in the 12th minute.

Min equalized for Myanmar seven minutes later and the tie persisted until Phaphouvanin beat the offside trap with a sweeping run in the 65th minute and finished it off for 2-1.

Myanmar equalized again in the 71st minute courtesy of Mar La but Phaphouvin came up with the winner after Vidalack Souvannavongsa was fouled by Khin Maung Tun.

6 days to go
Basta Pinoy. Posible.
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RP starts water polo bid today

GAMES TODAY (Trace Aquatics Center)
4 p.m.—RP vs Indonesia
5:15 p.m.—Thailand vs Vietnam
6:30 p.m.—Singapore vs Malaysia

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—THE PHILIPPINE WATER polo team gets an early tour of duty when it clashes today with Indonesia in the preliminaries here six days before the formal start of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Bannered by veterans who honed their skills in Hong Kong and China this year, the Nationals are expected to sweep past the Indonesians at the start of the single-round eliminations.

Game time is 4 p.m. at the newly constructed Trace Aquatics Center.

"Indonesia is a rough team and they're hungry for the gold but we will be giving them a rougher time getting it," said Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph.

The Philippines, whose best finish in the SEAG was silver in 1993 in Singapore and 1999 in Brunei, won the bronze in Vietnam two years ago.

The team's head coach is Reynaldo Galang and Edmond San Pedro is the assistant coach.

Marc Anthony Reyes

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Villanueva seals Red Bull victory

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Air21
7:25 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Alaska

By June Navarro

RED BULL BIG MAN ENRICO VILLANUEVA blocked two Talk 'N Text attempts in the endgame and the Barako scored their second win over the Phone Pals in three days, 99-92, last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Last season's Most Improved Player foiled Asi Taulava's putback and Damien Cantrell's short jumper to help seal the Barako's seventh win in 12 outings.

The Barako, who nipped the Phone Pals, 91-89, last Friday, tied Ginebra at second place

The scores:

First Game

RED BULL 99—Tugade 28, Greer 21, Cruz 13, Fonacier 11, Pennisi 9, Villanueva 6, Baguio 4, Bugula 3, Najorda 2, Valenzuela 2, Ybanez 0, Robinson 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 92—Cantrell 21, Telan 18, Pablo 11, Miller 10, Taulava 10, Cardona 9, Washington 6, Gelig 3, Alapag 2, Belano 2, Carey 0, Avenido 0.

Quarters: 13-27, 43-43, 71-73, 99-92.

Second Game

AIR21 114—Daniels 24, R. De Ocampo 23, Ritualo 15, Tubid 12, David 11, Dacia 10, Ferriols 7, Fran 5, Arboleda 3, Se 2, Y. De Ocampo 2, Canaleta 0.

STA. LUCIA 103—Calimag 20, Duremdes 14, Cabagnot 13, Espino 13, Weaver 11, Aquino 9, Tolomia 8, Catli 6, Mendoza 5, Sta. Maria 4, Omolon 0.

Quarters: 32-34, 50-52, 82-77, 114-103

Compton lifts Jewels; FEI scores

ALEX COMPTON KNOCKED IN A three-pointer that lifted Montaña Jewels past Rain or Shine, 66-63, yesterday for its second straight win in the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup at the San Sebastian Gym in Cavite.

The Elasto Painters fell to 2-2.

In the second game, Far Eastern Insurance downed Granny Goose, 71-66.

The scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 66—Capus 16, Compton 9, Espiritu 8, Dela Cuesta 7, Juntilla 6, Bono 6, Baguion 4, Mercado 4, Vergara 3, Guerrero 3.

RAIN OR SHINE 63—Reyes 16, Tangkay 13, Sta. Maria 10, Al Jamal 6, Malabanan 5, Ortiguerra 4, Enrile 4, Cabatu 3, Tan 2.

Second Game

FEI 71—Marquez 14, Sierra 14, Bravo 10, Latoreno 9, Gamboa 7, Estrada 7, Gurerrero 6, Cruz 3, Epondulan 1.

GRANNY GOOSE 66—Quinahan 12, Latonio 9, David 7, Cruz 7, Concha 6, Lanete 6, Grijaldo 6, Alfad 5, Ibanez 2, Gavino 2, Ferrer 2, Cervantes 2.

Peña 10th in Macau Grand Prix race

MACAU—DADO PEÑA KEPT HIS FOCUS in a wild and confusing race marred by high-speed crashes Sunday and finished 10th in the Asian Formula Renault Challenge at the Guia Circuit here that claimed the life of a former world motorcycle champion earlier in the day.

The 18-year-old Peña clocked 28 minutes and 18.982 seconds ahead of compatriot Tyson Sy, even as three Japanese drivers posted a podium sweep. Peña's trip here was backed by Tiger Airways' daily low fare service from Manila, ICTSI, PLDT MyPAD, PLDT MyDSL, Addict Mobile, Hanjin Shipping and tigerairways.com. Hyroyuki Matsumura won in 27:45.764, followed by compatriots Kazuya Oshima (27:49.048) and Koudai Tsukakoshi (27:50.532).

French motorcycle driver Bruno Bohuil expired after a crash during practice Saturday morning. Bohuil was the 1991 Motorcycle Grand Prix champion.

Two letters, from a priest and a city mayor

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

FOLLOWING IS A LETTER FROM A dear family friend, the parish priest of the Parish of St. Francis Xavier, Nasugbu, Batangas:

Dear Recah & Fe,

How are you? My invitation for you to visit Nasugbu still remains. I hope you can come one time and appreciate the pristine beaches Nasugbu is noted for, as well as be impressed with our local parish church slowly unfolding into a beautiful house of worship.

Please help me again promote our three-fold event [today]: 1) Launching of the year-long commemoration of the 500th birth anniversary of St. Francis Xavier; 2) Opening of St. Francis Exhibit, La Xavierada; 3) Celebration of Msgr. Fred's Birthday for a Cause Courtyard.

As for my birthday, it will again be celebrated for a cause, as has been the custom (together with my priestly anniversary in February) since I got involved with church constructions. So, instead of personal gifts, I requested my friends and relatives to bring cash donations for the ongoing construction of the St. Francis Xavier Parish Church. These events are spearheaded by our untiring and devoted parishioner, Dr. Albert Wonchai. He has helped me on several occasions. He also sort of reintroduced to Nasugbuenos the former second portion of our parish, the Nuestra Senora Virgen de la Escalera, which our revered Archbishop Ramon Arguelles and Don Pablo Roxas took the honors of Her re-coronation.

I hope for your assistance. Thank you and warm regards.

MSGR. ALFREDO MADLANGBAYAN
Parish Priest

***

Now, please share this communication from the City Mayor of Mandaluyong:

Dear Mr. Trinidad:

Thank you very much for bringing to my attention the alleged illegal raid conducted by the city's drug enforcement unit through your column.

I immediately had the matter verified, and I wish to inform you that the report given to this office is that it was the police force's Drug Enforcement Unit and not the civilian law enforcement unit of the city government that was referred to in the complaint. On this basis, I called the attention of our city Chief of Police, Atty. Ericson Velasquez, and asked him to conduct a thorough investigation. I am assuring you and Mr. Lino Barte that my office will act with fairness and dispatch as soon as I receive Col. Velasquez's report.

Allow me also to address the issue of what you averred to as a "political campaign" via what you described as "giant, glaring billboards prominently displayed in choice points that loudly declare projects both completed and ongoing." Let me state at the outset that these choice points are not of my doing. The billboard structures on these sites have been in place long before I assumed the office as City Mayor. I am merely maximizing the use of these spaces and the public funds expended for the purpose through my program of public information.

May I also clarify that even when I was still the Congressman of our city, I neither engaged the services of any publicist nor that of a public relations person or office. It has been my practice to inform my constituents of how this public servant has been discharging the responsibilities of the offices entrusted to me.

When I assumed office, I already provided ample funds for an effective and efficient public information drive. Please disabuse yourself, then, of the thought that I am on a campaign trail. It is too early for that. Right now, I only concentrate on doing best the duties of the office to which I have been elected.

Your kumpadre,
NEPTALI M. GONZALES II

***

(Tonight is the final wake for Fernando P. Angeles at #5 San Jose St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City. The father of agriculture activist Benjie Angeles will be cremated tomorrow.)

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Department Circular No. DC 2005-11-010

Whereas, Rule 8 6 1 of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) Rules provide for the approval by the Department of Energy (DOE) of proposals for any WESM rules changes upon endorsement by the PEM Board;

Whereas, on September 9, 2005, the Interim Rules Change Committee has approved a resolution endorsing for approval before the PEM Board changes in the WESM Rules pertaining to the governance, procedure on rules change, and market operations including correction of clerical errors;

Whereas, after discussion, the PEM Board has resolved on September 27, 2005 to approve for endorsement to the Department of Energy (DOE) the abovestated changes to the WESM Rules.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to its authority under the WESM Rules, the DOE hereby issues, adopts and promulgates the following amendments to the WESM Rules

A. Amendments to the WESM Rules

1 Rule 1 4 2 7 (d) is amended to read –

"(d) Has not been employed by any electric power industry participant, or a company or body related to or associated with a *WESM participant* (as defined in clause 1 4 2 7 (c)) within one year prior to nomination date; and

2. Rule 1.6.2 (c) is hereby deleted and intentionally left blank.

3. Rule 1.9 is amended to read as follows -

"Where the *WESM Rules* identify matters that are subject to review or consultation in accordance with the public consultation procedures, the *PEM Board* shall ensure that, as a minimum, the following procedures are followed

(a) The *PEM Board* shall publish in the market information website particulars of the matter to *WESM Participants* and other interested persons, inviting written submissions concerning the matter to be made by a specified date."

4. Rule 3.5 4.1 (as amended) is further amended to read -

Each Customer may submit a forecast in respect of each trading interval for each of its registered load facilities for each trading day of the week in accordance with the *timetable*. The forecast submitted by the Customer shall be used by the *Market Operator* in the preparation of *Net Load Forecast* if it is within the forecast tolerance range published by the Market Operator.

If the Customer fails to submit a forecast of its load facilities in accordance with the timetable or if the Customer forecast submitted is not within the published forecast tolerance range, the forecast prepared by the *Market Operator* at the node where the *Customer* is located shall be used

Prior to the commencement of the spot market, the *Market Operator*, in consultation with *WESM Participants*, shall determine and publish the forecast tolerance range. The forecast tolerance range may be varied from time to time by the *Market Operator*.

5. Rule 3 6 5 is amended to read -

From time to time, the *System Operator* and the *Market Operator* shall investigate the scope for further development of the *market dispatch optimization model* beyond the minimum requirements specified in clause 3.6 1 and submit their recommendations in a report to the *PEM Board* for consultation with *WESM Members*

6. Rule 3 9.6 is amended to read -

If, as a result of *load shedding*, no *ex-ante prices* can be determined or communicated within the timeframe specified in the timetable, or the calculated prices are believed to be in error, the *Market Operator* shall, as soon as possible, issue a *pricing error notice* in accordance with clause 3 10.5

7. Rule 3 10.5 is amended to read -

In the event where no *ex-ante prices* can be determined or communicated within the timeframe specified by the *timetable*, or the calculated prices are believed to be in error, as a result of *load shedding*, occurrence of *constraint violation coefficients*, or for any other reason:

a) The *Market Operator* may, as soon as possible after the end of a *trading interval*, issue a *pricing error notice*, in which case, the *ex-post* quantities and the *ex post prices* determined according to clause 3.10.7 shall also serve as *ex-ante* quantities and *ex-ante* prices

b) If no *pricing error notice* is issued within the time specified in the foregoing paragraph, the *ex-post prices* and quantities shall serve as *ex-ante prices* and quantities and shall stand irrespective of the outcome of any subsequent investigations or resolutions of any dispute

c) Should the pricing error also include *reserves*, the *reserve* quantity and price determined in the *ex-post* run shall serve as the *reserve* quantity and prices

8 Rule 3.10.6 is amended to read -

The *ex-post nodal energy price* for each *market trading node* shall be determined as the *shadow price* on the *energy balance equation* for that *market trading node*, formed in accordance with clause 3 6 1 4 (c), in an *ex-post dispatch optimization* performed, in accordance with the timetable, to determine target dispatch levels for the end of that trading interval assuming

(a) the *plant* status at the end of that *trading interval* as determined for the *ex-post dispatch optimization* or if *load shedding* occurred in that *trading interval*, the *plant* status which would have pertained at the end of that *trading interval*, as indicated in the targets determined by the *ex-post dispatch* for that *trading interval*;

(b) The generation *offers* which applied at the beginning of that *trading interval*;

(c) The *unrestrained load* determined from *metering data*, or estimated, at the end of that trading interval, to apply at each *market network node* for that *trading interval*

9 Rule 3 10 7 is amended to read -

The *Market Operator*, in consultation with *WESM participants* and subject to approval by the *PEM Board*, shall develop and publish procedures to be employed in clauses 3 10 6 (d) and (e) in establishing the *network configuration* and other constraints to be assumed for the determination of *ex-post nodal energy prices* for circumstances in which power system conditions materially change during the *trading interval*, with a view to ensuring that

(b) The *ex-post prices* produced in accordance with clause 3.10 6, properly and fairly represent conditions at the end of the *trading interval*

10. Rule 3 13 1.1 is amended to read -

Trading Participants who sell electricity pursuant to *bilateral contracts* and wish those *bilateral contracts* to be accounted for in settlements shall, after each *trading day*, in accordance with the billing and settlements timetable

(a) Submit a schedule to the *Market Operator* specifying the *MWH bilateral sell quantities* at each relevant *market trading node*, in each *trading interval* of that *trading day*.

11. Rule 3 13 6(a) is amended to read -

For each *trading interval*, the gross *ex-post energy settlement quantity* for each *market trading node* shall be determined by the *Market Operator* as follows

(a) If the *market trading node* is defined under clause 3.2 2.1 as lying in the boundary of the *power system* operated by the *System Operator*, the gross *ex-post energy settlement quantity* for the *market trading node* is the net metered flow into the *power system* operated by the *System Operator* through the *associated meter*,

(b) If the *market trading node* is defined under clause 3 2 2.2 as a *generator node* lying on the interface between *networks*, apparatus or equipment operated by parties other than the *System Operator* the gross *ex-post energy settlement quantity* for the market trading node is the net metered flows through the associated *meter* from the *Generation Company* to the *Customer* side of the *meter*, and

12. Rule 3 13.7 is amended to read -

For settlement purposes, the ex-ante energy settlement *quantity* for any *market trading node* in any *trading interval* shall be determined by the *Market Operator* by adjusting the gross ex-ante energy settlement quantity for that *market trading node* and any *trading interval*, as measured in accordance with clause 3 13.5 or estimated in accordance with clause 3 13.6, for bilateral contract quantities notified to the *Market Operator* under clause 3 13.1.1, or inferred by the *Market Operator* under clause 3.13.1.1 and accepted as valid under clause 3.13 1.2 by

13. Rule 3.13.10.1 is amended to read -

If the transactions *required* by clauses 3.13.14.2 (a), (b) and (d), in aggregate, result in a surplus or deficit remaining, this will be known as the *net settlement surplus*.

14. Rule 3 14.7 is amended to read -

After the *Market Operator* is to be paid under clause 3.14.6 and in accordance with the schedule set in the billing and settlements timetable, the *Market Operator* shall pay to each *WESM Member* in cleared funds the settlement amount (if any) stated to be payable to that *WESM Member* in that *WESM Member's* final statement

15. Rule 6 2 3 is amended to read -

During *market suspension* and *intervention*, the *Market Operator* shall impose an *administered price* to be used as basis for settlements

Prior to the *spot market commencement date*, the *Market Operator* shall develop and publish the methodology for determining the *administered price* to be used during *market suspension* or *intervention* of the *spot market*. Said *administered price* is to be endorsed by the *PEM Board* for *ERC* approval

16. Rule 6 5.1 1(b) is amended to read -

The *System Operator* shall also

(1) Implement any *load shedding* in a manner consistent with the *system security and reliability guidelines*; and

(2) To the extent possible, determine a rotating *outage* plan, and rotate any *load shedding* requirements.

17. Rule 7 3 1.1(i) is amended to read –

The dispute resolution procedures set out in this clause 7.3 apply to all disputes which may arise between any of the following: as to:

(i) A *dispute* under or in relation to the *rules* and *regulations* issued by the *ERC* and *DOE* under the *Act*, where such rules and regulations provide that the dispute resolution procedures under the *WESM Rules* are to *apply* to any dispute under or in relation to that rules and regulations, or

18. Rule 8 2 2 2 is amended to read –

The principle applicable to the composition and operation of *the PEM Board* as set out in clause 1.4.2 apply also to the composition of the *Rule Change Committee*.

19. Rule 8 2 9 is added and will read –

(a) Subject to clause 8 6 4 2, the *Rule Change Committee* will recommend for approval of the *PEM Board* a system of classification of changes to the WESM Rules

(b) Subject to approval by the *PEM Board*, the *Rule Change Committee* will develop and publish detailed guidelines and procedures to be employed in the consideration, approval, publication and effectivity of any proposed change to the WESM Rules. These guidelines and procedures will, as far as practicable, be consistent with the provisions of this chapter 8, provided, however, that the *Committee* may establish procedures, time periods and manner of publication and effectivity other than as stated in this chapter 8 depending on the classification of the proposed change.

20 Rule 8 5.4 is amended to read –

Approving and submitting proposed Rule change for approval

If the *PEM Board* concludes that the proposed change to the *WESM Rules* satisfies the criteria which are set out in clause 8.4.1 and that the processes and procedures set out in clause 8 4 have been duly followed, the *PEM Board*

a) shall submit the proposed change to the *WESM Rules* to the DOE for approval if the proposed change requires approval by the *DOE* under the classification system approved pursuant to clause 8 6 4 2, or

b) shall cause publication of the approved rule change, if the proposed rule change requires approval of the *PEM Board* only. The approved rule change will become effective after its publication on such date and for such period as the *PEM Board* determines

21 Rule 8 6 is amended to read –

Approval of Proposed Rule Changes by the DOE

22 Rule 8 6 4 1 is amended to read –

If the DOE concludes that a proposed change to the WESM Rules is consistent with the Act and the public interest and satisfies the criteria which are set out in clause 8 4 1, it shall approve the amendment and cause its publication. The change to the WESM Rules approved by the DOE will take effect within fifteen days from its publication, or on such later date as the DOE, determines.

23 Rule 8 6 4.2 is amended to read –

Upon recommendation of the Rules Change Committee, the PEM Board shall ratify the classification system of rule change proposals developed by the Committee pursuant to clause 8 2 9 (a) that will delineate proposals requiring DOE review and approval vis-à-vis proposals that can be acted upon by the DOE

24. The definition of administered price under Rule 11 is amended to read –

Administered price. A price imposed by the Market Operator to the Trading Participants *during market suspension* and *intervention* to be used for settlements which price is determined in accordance with the *methodology* developed and published by the Market Operator and approved by the *ERC*

25. The definition of Business Day under Rule 11 is amended to read –

Business day. Any day on which the spot market is open for business.

And the following clerical corrections

1 Rule 3 6 1 is amended to read –

Prior to commencement of each trading interval, the *Market Operator* shall, in consultation with the Grid Operator, and in accordance with the *timetable*

b) Prepare a forecast of the *unrestrained net load* expected at each *market trading node* for the end of that *trading interval*;

2 Rule 3 8 2 2 (b) is amended to read –

Load shedding or other directions issued by the *System Operator* during the *trading interval*;

3 Rule 3 11 1 2 (a) is amended to read –

Final *dispatch* offers and when applicable, *reserve* offers;

4 Rule 3 11 1 2 (e) is amended to read –

The identification of the *Trading Participant* submitting the *dispatch* bid or *dispatch* offer

5 Rule 3 13 12 (a) is amended to read –

The *Market Operator* shall calculate the line rental trading amounts for each *transmission line* in the *market network model* as

(a) The expected flow of energy out of the *receiving node* of the *market network line* as determined by the *market dispatch optimization model* multiply by the *ex-ante nodal energy settlement price* at that node, less

6 Rule 3 13 14 1 is amended to read –

For each *billing period*, the *Market Operator* shall determine the *settlement amount* for each *Trading Participant* as the sum of the aggregate trading amounts for the *trading intervals* in that *billing period*, determined in accordance with clause 3 13 14 2 plus

7 Rule 3 15 7 1(a) is amended to read –

Publish the suspension notice, and

8 Rule 3.15 7 6 is amended to read –

If,

(b) The *Market Operator* has issued a *suspension notice* to a *WESM Member* due to a failure by the *WESM Member* to continue to satisfy the *prudential requirements* and in the *Market Operator's* reasonable opinion the *WESM Member* is incapable of rectifying that failure for any reason

9. Rule 4 4.2 is amended to read –

Subject to clause 4.4 3, *Generation Company* or *Customer* which is involved in the trading of energy shall not be registered as a *Metering Services Provider* for any connection point in respect of which the *metering data* relates to its own use of energy

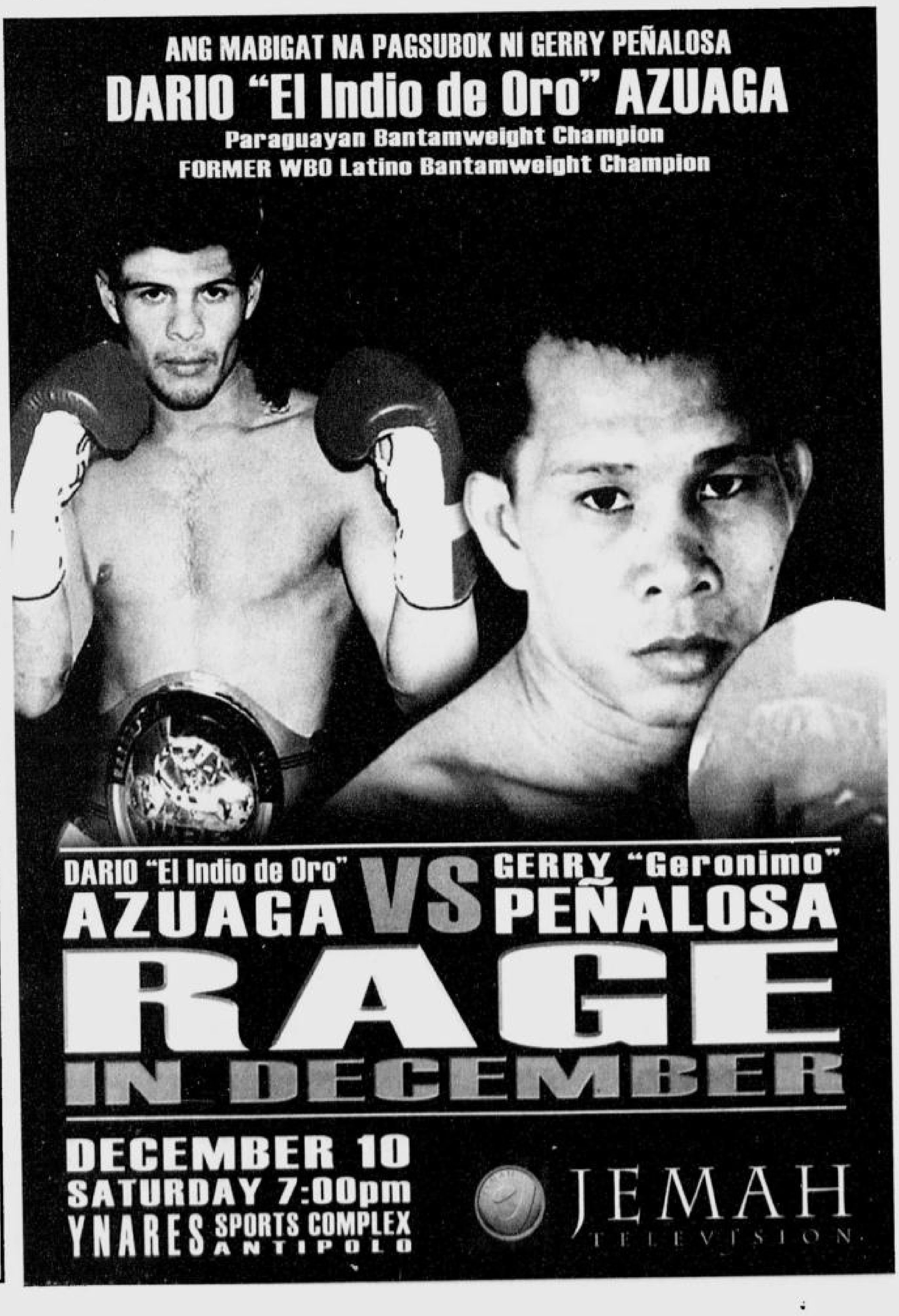
B Effectivity

These amendments shall be effective fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation

Raphael P. M. Lotilla
Secretary

Metro Manila, Philippines, November 11, 2005

(PDI - Nov 21, 2005)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Fil-Am wins singles, doubles crowns

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ZALAMEDA: Double victory RYAN LIM

FILIPINO-AMERICAN RIZA ANGELA ZAlameda crushed first-leg winner Wing-Yau Venise Chan of Hong Kong, 6-3, 6-2, to capture the $10,000 Holcim ITF Philippine Women's Circuit 2 yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Egged on by the crowd, Zalameda came out on fire against the 16-year-old Chan, wrapping up the title in just 64 minutes to cap an explosive show in her final tournament before leading the Philippine team in the Southeast Asian Games next week.

It was a double whammy for the 19-year-old Zalameda as she also won the doubles in partnership with RP teammate and fellow Fil-Am Denise Dy by trouncing Taiwan's Chen Yi and Kao Shao-yuan, 6-2, 6-3.

"It's a great experience for me to win this tournament before my countrymen," said the 5-foot-4 Zalameda, a rising UCLA star. "I did well because I got a lot of support from the crowd."

The eldest among four daughters of former RP Davis Cupper Rollie Zalameda, Riza was born and raised in California.

"I'm lucky to be competing in this level now," said Zalameda. "I didn't play in the first leg because I got sick. I need more matches to get my confidence back. I hope I can perform well in the SEA Games, too. I'll try to do my best."

Zalameda will banner the Philippine women's team in the SEA Games along with Czarina Mae Arevalo, who lost to Chan in the finals of the first leg. Fil-German Anja Vanessa Peter is the team's fourth member.

The victory was worth $1,568 top purse and six circuit points in the ITF for Riza, where she is ranked No. 860. She split the $637 doubles purse with Dy.

"I just played well today," said Zalameda, whose chief weapon is a blistering forehand. "Chan is a good player but I think I surprised her with the way I played today."

On her way to the final, Zalameda, who suffered gastroenteritis and skipped tournaments upon arriving in the country three weeks ago, ousted top seed Hwang I-hsuan in third round, No. 7 Kim Hae-sung of Korea in the quarterfinals and teammate Arevalo in the semifinals.

Zalameda took a 4-1 lead in the first set which she won in 30 minutes. The Hong Kong bet broke her in the second game to lead, 2-1, but Riza won the next five games to complete the rout.

"I was a little bit disappointed," said Chan. "I got into the final and I was hoping to win again but I was not fit. After playing nine matches, I don't want to play anymore. I'm so tired and I lost control of the ball."

SPORTSWATCH

Spring Oil rips Wang's-RTU

SPRING Cooking Oil got another inspired performance from former UST Tiger Derrick Hubalde to beat Wang's Ballclub-RTU, 82-68, and gain at least a tie for one of two outright semifinals berths in the 2005 Picaa Open basketball tournament Thursday at the Philippine Buddhacare gym in Quezon City. It was the fifth win in six games for the Cooking Oil Masters of shooting champ Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla in the tourney sponsored by Hang Ten, Tomish Cafe, Chloe Lightings and Absorba Footwear. Mail&More-Burlington-PCCR won by default over Golden Bird in the other game.

Iloilo barges into JVC quarters

REGIONAL champion Iloilo Doctors College routed College of St. Benilde, 3-0, yesterday and became the lone provincial squad in the women's division of the JVC Inter-scholastics Badminton Championships at PowerSmash Badminton Center. IDC takes on Ateneo in the quarterfinal at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City today. De La Salle stepped up its title-retention bid with an easy 2-0 win over Miriam. Also advancing were Adamson, UP-Diliman, University of the East and University of Santo Tomas with Far Eastern U and PUP disputing the last berth at presstime.

National Bakbakan semis up

THE SEMIFINAL round of the 2005 National Bakbakan 9-stag derby unfolds today at the Araneta Coliseum with more than 100 electrifying fights on tap. Main presentors are Gran Matador and B-Meg. Out of 856 participants, only 391 made it to the semifinal rounds also set on Nov. 22 and 24. Those scoring 4 and 4.5 points in the semis will compete on Nov. 26, while those with 5.5 and 6 points clash in the grand finals on Nov. 28. For other inquiries, please call the Araneta Coliseum: 911-2928 and 911-3101.

All set for Cavite 7-Cock Derby

THE CAVITE 7-Cock International derby will blast off on Nov. 29, Dec. 1 and 3 at the Cavite Coliseum Derby Center and Casino. Entries must be received on Nov. 28, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 0915-5742399 or 0469704810 (look for Ferdie Bautista or Mandy). The fund-raising affair to be hosted by former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado and William Co stakes a guaranteed prize of P2 million. Entry fee is P30,000. Derby sponsors are Pagcor-Casino Filipino and Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

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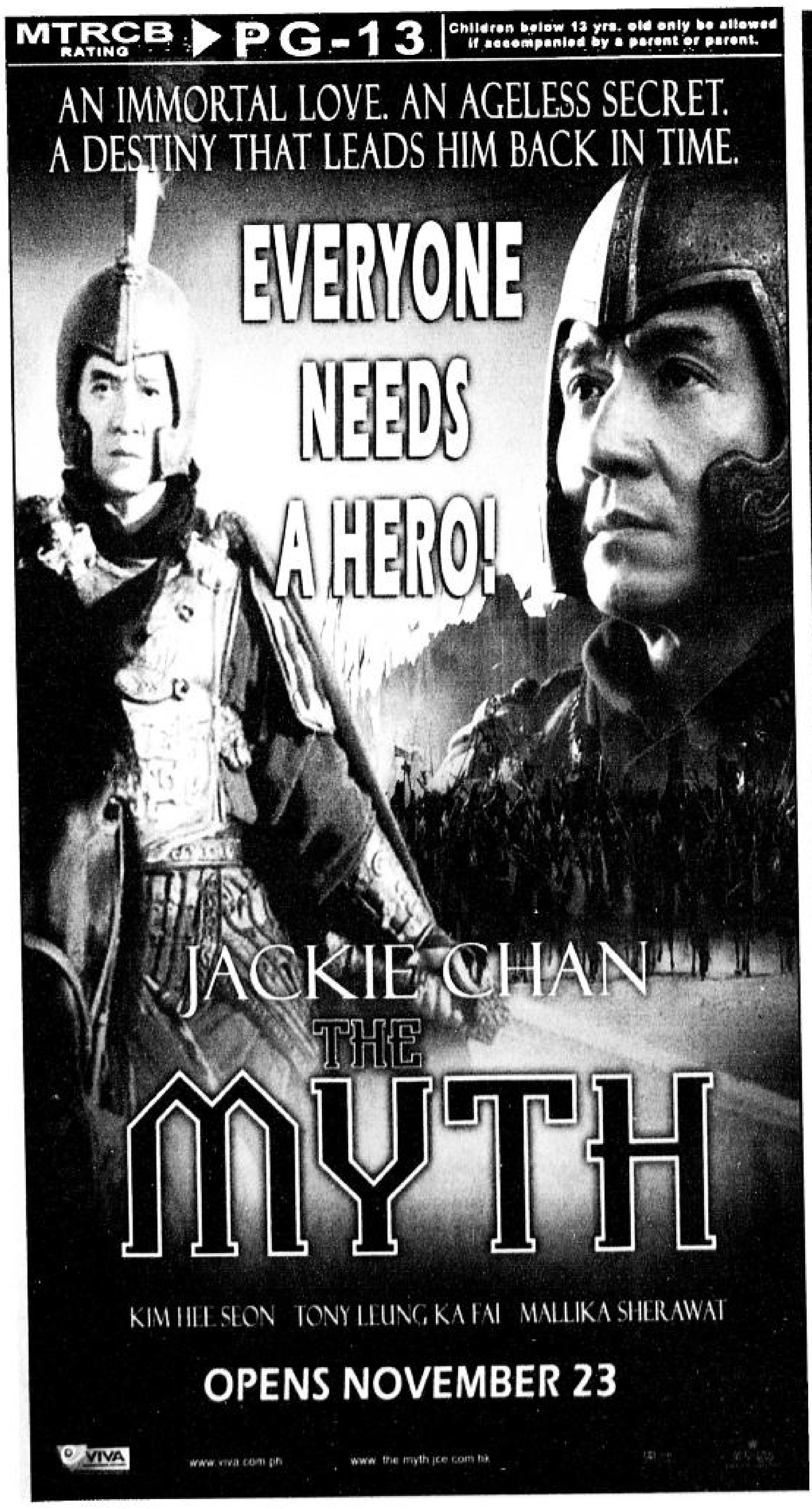

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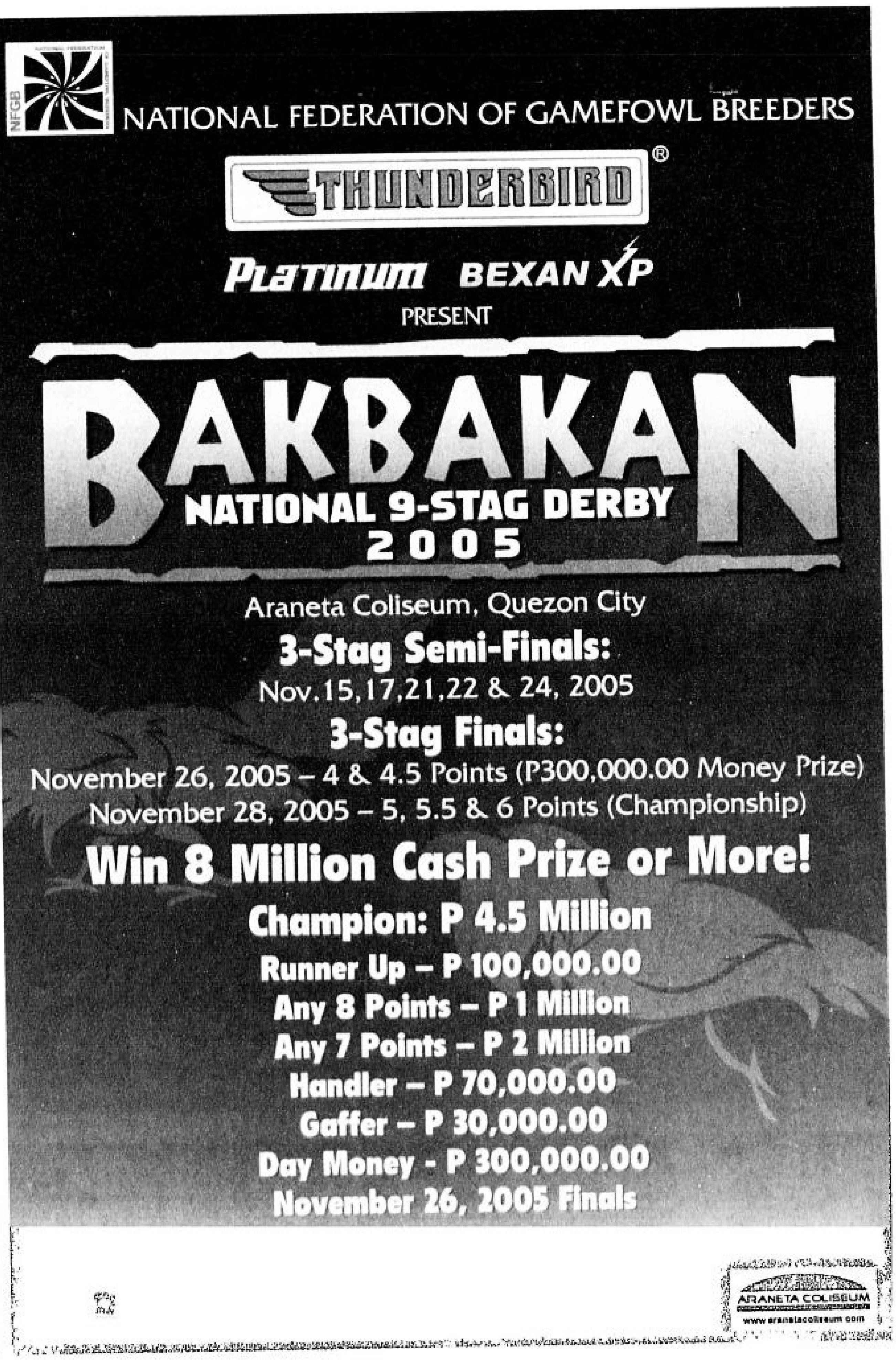

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PATENTED

Esguerra's chargers sweep 3-year-old class

EURO BUCKS AND WAR ALERT GAVE Hermie Esguerra a sweep of the 3-Year-Old divisions of the 10th Marho Breeders' Cup last night at the Santa Ana Park.

Francis and Michael Trillana's Dixie the Younger, RD Tan's Juggernaut also shone along with former Marho chief Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, as winning breeder, in the rich, annual racefest that featured the finest batch of locally bred runners.

Euro Bucks stormed to her seventh consecutive victory under hot Jockey of the Year contender Jesse Guce as the daughter of Account of Grace out of Leveret ruled the 3-Year-Old Filly Mile, while War Alert topped the 3-Year-Old Colt Mile in wire-to-wire fashion under Louie Balboa.

Dixie the Younger marked his reunion with Val Dilema with a thrilling one-length triumph over Manila's Smile in the Juvenile Colts, while the Jonathan Hernandez-guided Juggernaut loomed as the 2-year-old to watch when she spanked the field in the Juvenile Fillies for her fourth successive victory.

Puyat, the venerable sportsman-businessman credited for steering the Marho to great heights, sparkled as breeder of Euro Bucks and Juggernaut, a chestnut daughter of Mr. Sutter out of Plate Lady. He got a P90,000 bonus for each win, while Esguerra and former racing commissioner Francis Trillana also got the same incentive as breeders of War Alert and Dixie the Younger, respectively.

Esguerra received P1.2 million through the combined wins of Euro Bucks and War Alert. The Trillanas and Tan pocketed P600,000 each. *Edwin Villanueva, contributor*

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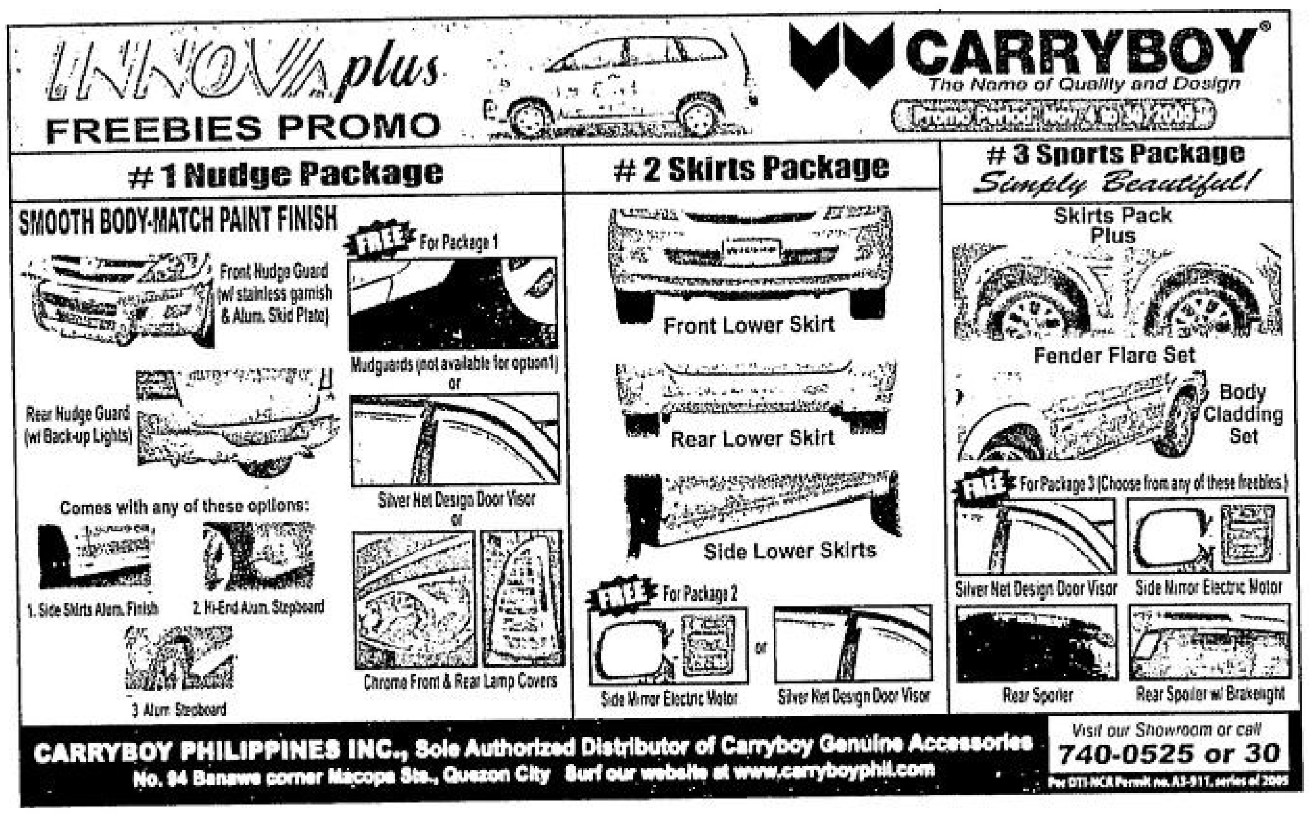
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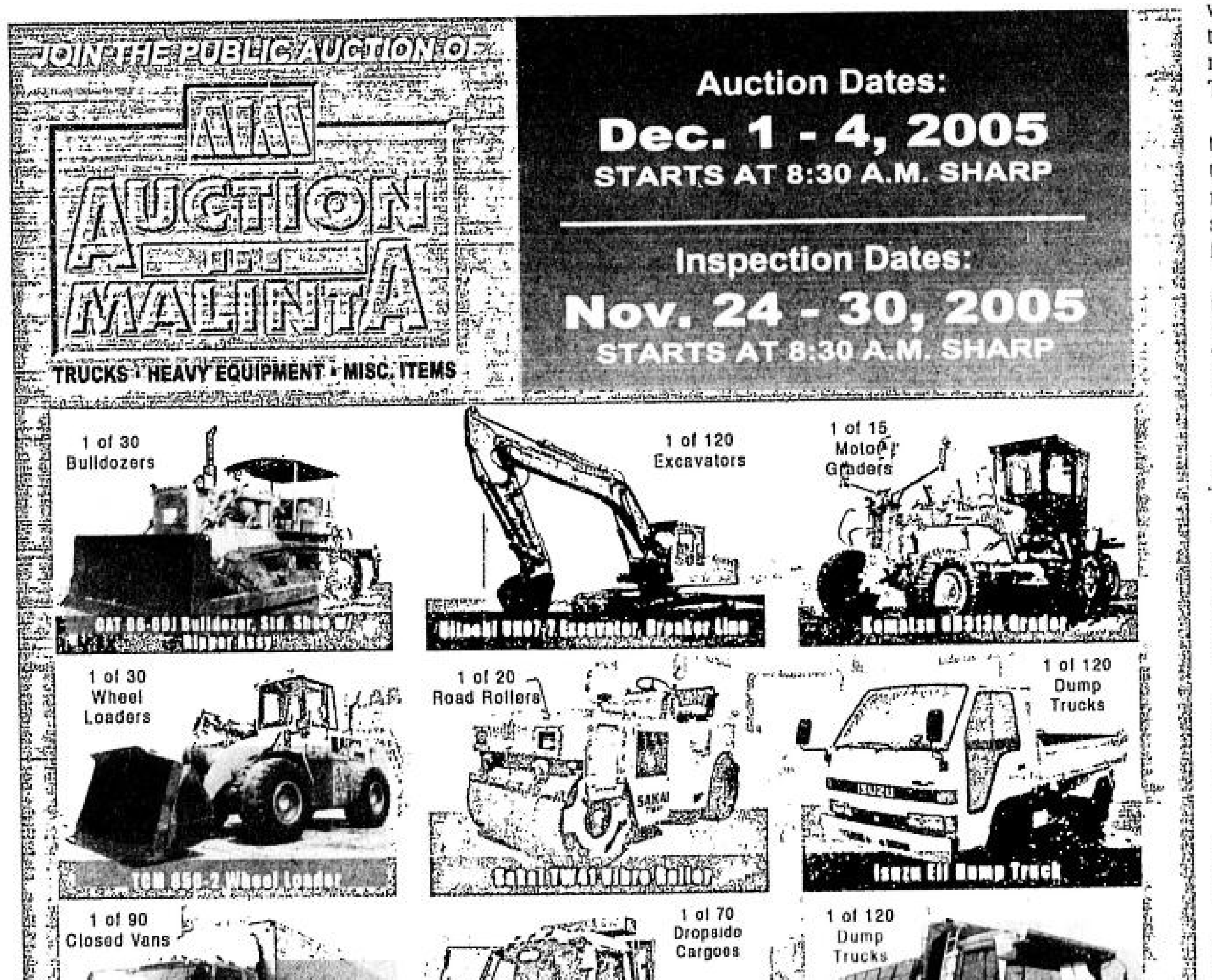
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Mavs hand tired Pistons 1st loss

DALLAS—JOSH HOWARD SCORED 26 POINTS and Dirk Nowitzki had 23 as the Dallas Mavericks handed the Detroit Pistons their first loss of the season, 119-82, Saturday night.

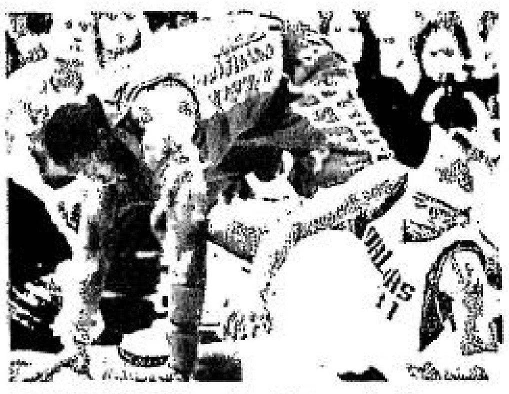
The Pistons, the NBA's last unbeaten team, opened with eight wins to match the second-best start in franchise history—trailing only the 9-0 mark set in 1970-71.

Erick Dampier added 16 points and 14 rebounds for the Mavericks, who led by 26 points in the first quarter. Marquis Daniels had 15 points and six assists, and Devin Harris added 14 points for Dallas, which improved to 4-0 at home and 7-2 overall after its highest-scoring game of the season.

Richard Hamilton had 18 points to lead Detroit, which had been limiting opponents to a league-low 87 points per game. However, the Pistons seemed weary from a road back-to-back situation, coming off a 78-70 win at Houston on Friday night.

Dallas got off to a blazing start with its highest scoring quarter of the season. The Mavericks made 17 of their first 21 shots to build a 40-16 lead after the opening period.

Prior to the loss, the Pistons were on a streak as new coach Flip Saunders' motion offense blended well with Detroit's suffocating defense.


BEN WALLACE and the Pistons finally come tumbling down against the Mavericks.

The Pistons, whose team and player Spalding basketballs have been a hit in the Philippines since being distributed by Proline Sports Center, averaged 102.7 points per game before the loss.

In Philadelphia, LeBron James had 36 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his first triple-double of the season, rallying the Cleveland Cavaliers over the Philadelphia 76ers, 123-120. *AP*

Miñoza bags third place in Carlsberg Masters tilt

HANOI—FRANKIE MIÑOZA BOUNCED BACK with a two-under-par 70 Sunday to salvage third place in the Carlsberg Masters 2005 Vietnam won by Asian Tour Order of Merit leader Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand.

The veteran Miñoza showed he's still the top Filipino shotmaker by finishing with a 284 total, three off Thaworn and one behind runner-up Chris Rodgers of England. Thaworn shot 71 for 281 and Rodgers closed with 73 for 283.

It was the highest finish in the Asian Tour this year for Miñoza, who will be playing in the final qualifying tournament for the Japan Tour next week along with former national amateur champion Artemio Murakami.

Gerald Rosales also rallied with a 70 to tie for 15th at 291. Cookie La'O finished at 294 after a 74 while Carito Villaroman wound up at 297 after a 75.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Rosales moved into position for a fruitful stint in the season-ending LPGA Tour Championship in West Palm Beach, Florida Saturday, shooting a 71 to tie for 14th at 219, just six shots behind third-round leader Annika Sorenstam, who was at 213 after a 74.

CLEAN LIVIN

Due to space constraints Clean Living will come out tomorrow—Ed.

Manolo R. Iñigo

Tiger bags Dunlop title via playoff

MIYAZAKI, JAPAN—TIGER WOODS BIRDIED the fourth hole of a playoff against Japan's Kaname Yokoo on Sunday to successfully defend his Dunlop Phoenix title.

Woods reached the green at the par-5 18th—the fourth playoff hole—in two shots and then two-putted for birdie. Yokoo missed a 12-foot birdie putt as Woods won his seventh tournament this year.

Woods saved par on the first playoff but twisted his ankle on his tee shot. He limped though his remaining playoff holes, making birdie on each of them.

Woods, who had a one-stroke lead over Jim Furyk going into the final round, shot a 71 to finish tied with Yokoo at 8-under 272. He had a chance to win it in regulation but could only manage par on the 18th after his tee shot landed in a bunker halfway down the fairway.

Meanwhile, in Vilamoura, Portugal, Sunday's final round of the golf World Cup was delayed by heavy rain on southern Portugal's Algarve coast.

The Welsh pair of Bradley Dredge and Stephen Dodd have a two-stroke lead over David Howell and Luke Donald of England, and Swedes Henrik Stenson and Niclas Fasth. *AP*

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Uy steals 4x4 show

BICOL OFF-ROAD Club's Ramon Uy came out of nowhere to steal the thunder from the 4x4 world's established stars, ruling the fourth and final leg of the DELO Sports National Extreme 4x4 Series with aplomb in Del Monte, Bulacan, recently. Uy, who is not among those expected to deliver big time in 4x4 racing's grandest stage, surprised the elite field with his consistency and driving skills, clocking a total time of 24:48.85 to win the final leg of the national series in style. "I let it all hang out," said Uy, whose two teammates made the top four.

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Angel bids Darna goodbye

By Marinel R. Cruz

GMA 7's TOP-RATING *teleserye*, "Darna," airs its final episode on Friday.

What's next for its lead star, Angel Locsin? The actress is keeping her cards close to her chest.

"I heard the network has something lined up for me. *Ayaw kong mag*-expect [because] I don't want to be disappointed," Angel told INQUIRER Entertainment last week.

What's certain, she said, was that she would spend the next two weeks away from work. She planned to train in *arnis*, the Filipino martial art of stick fighting, she said, and enroll in acting class.

But that sounds like she's preparing for something definite, doesn't it? She replied, "Just in case plans push through."

Angel's manager, Becky Aguila, said the *Kapuso* network was indeed cooking up a new show for the actress, "but we have not sat down with the network executives."

Lessons learned

Clad in blue jeans and a white form-fitting blouse under a blue-green tweed jacket, Angel rushed to GMA 7's 17th Floor to meet with INQUIRER Entertainment for this interview. She had just guested on the morning talk show "Sis," to promote "Darna's" final week.

"I really need to rest," said Angel. "I miss my family. I also need to clean my condominium unit. *Ang dumi na*. I plan to go to the beach and go jet-skiing."

After her brief break, she is set to work on the movie version of "Mulawin," with Richard Gutierrez. The movie is GMA Films' entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival next month.

"Darna" started airing in April. On its third day, it registered a rating of 52.1 percent—so far the highest rating in TV history, according to a survey conducted by AGB Philippines, leading television audience measurement company.

AGB also says the series' rating never went below 30, supposedly a reason to rejoice in a scenario determined by a famously fickle audience.

Angel shared with INQUIRER Entertainment the lessons she learned, the friends she made and her wish to win an acting award someday.

When you agreed to do "Darna," did you think it would be this big?

No. I felt flattered when GMA 7 picked me for the role. I used to watch *Tita* Vilma (Santos) and *Tita* Sharon (Cuneta) portray Darna. I consider this an achievement.

Until the first shooting day, I did not want to announce I got the job. I knew I could be replaced at the snap of a finger. I was very nervous at first. I used to be part of a love team; I didn't know if could stand on my own. I said, "*Baka hindi ako tanggapin ng tao.*" I kept asking about the ratings. I felt so relieved when I found out how well the show did that first week.

What's your most memorable experience as Darna?

I love everything I have done on "Darna." But I will never forget what I felt the first time I wore the costume. When the cameras rolled—we were here, on the rooftop—and I shouted "Darna!" I said to myself, "*Wala nang atrasan ito.*" I still get goose bumps when I remember that moment.

What's the most difficult scene ever?

For "Darna," I had to learn fist fighting. For "Mulawin," I had to learn to use the sword. I love fight scenes. Underwater scenes are hard. I got this while shooting recently in Anilao for "Darna" (shows a bruise the size of a soft ball on her right arm). My diving instructor said I should have watched out for fire corals, but I didn't know what they looked like.

You have to be very careful when you're underwater. If you panic, you could die. There was one time when I had trouble with my resonator and I really wanted to rush back up. It was good that my diving buddy was there.

Ate Ara (Mina, who plays Dyesebel in the series) ran out of oxygen underwater. I saw her gasping for air. *Awang-awa ako*. She has more bruises than I do.

Apart from the lead character, which one had a really big impact on you?

Braguda had the most effect on me. *Tita* Celia (Rodriguez) is really a good *kontrabida*. But when it comes to costume, *Tito* Ed's (Garcia) was the most demanding. Real rats, cockroaches and worms were tied to his Mambabarang costume. The rats climbed up his neck and bit him.

Ate Carmina (Villaroel, as Sulfura) is really scared of cockroaches. She had a hard time concentrating on her lines whenever Mambabarang was around. *Magkalayo sila kapag kinukunan ang eksena nila.*

What did you learn from directors Dominic Zapata and Eric Quizon?

Direk Dom is really good when it comes to fight scenes. *Bilib talaga ako*. But the best thing I learned from him is to always be on time. No matter how tired he is from directing other shows, he still showed up for "Darna" on time.

I learned a lot of acting techniques from *Direk* Eric. He's a good actor.

I'll surely miss everyone. I'll miss the *kulitan, tsismisan, tawanan* on the set, not only with the directors but also with the other actors and crew members. We had a lot of fun during breaks.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Is there anything else you wish to achieve?

Gusto kong magkaroon ng [acting] award. That's why I'm working really hard. I'm very determined [to land] the perfect project. I feel that I still have a lot to give in terms of acting.

Can you now explain Darna's mission?

Darna is the world's *tagapagtanggol*. She does not want mankind to be ruled by creatures from other planets.

Who is more important to Darna, her family or mankind?

They are both important to Darna, but because of her mission—like any classic hero figure—she needs to look after the welfare of many.

ANGEL says she "loves everything" she has done on the series.
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2 HARRY POTTER 4
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

3 HARRY POTTER 4
11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30

4 HARRY POTTER 4
1:00 4:10 7:20 10:30

5 HARRY POTTER 4
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

6 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 ILUSYON
12.00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

9 CRY_WOLF
12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40

10 FOUR BROTHERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER 4
11:00 2:20 5:40 9:00

2 DOMINO
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 CRY_WOLF
10:30 12:20 2:10 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 FLIGHTPLAN
10:30 12:20 2:10 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 HARRY POTTER 4
12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

7 HARRY POTTER 4
12:00 3:20 6:40 10.00

METRO EAST 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:30 4:00 6.00 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER 4
12:45 3:55 7:05

3 HARRY POTTER 4
3.55 7:05

4 FLIGHTPLAN
11:25 1:50 4.15 6:40 9:05

5 CRY_WOLF
1.00 3.00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 HARRY POTTER 4
3:20 6:30

7 HARRY POTTER 4
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

8 FOUR BROTHERS
2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

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		3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
		4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
		3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS
		4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
		5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
		6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
		7 FLIGHTPLAN
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 FLIGHTPLAN 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
		2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:20, 2:30, 5:40, 8:50
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:40, 4:55, 8:10, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS
		2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:05, 4:20, 7:35, 10:50 GUARANTEED SEATS
		3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 2:15, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS
		4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:00, 3:15, [illegible] 9:45 GUARANTEED SEATS
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		5 FLIGHTPLAN
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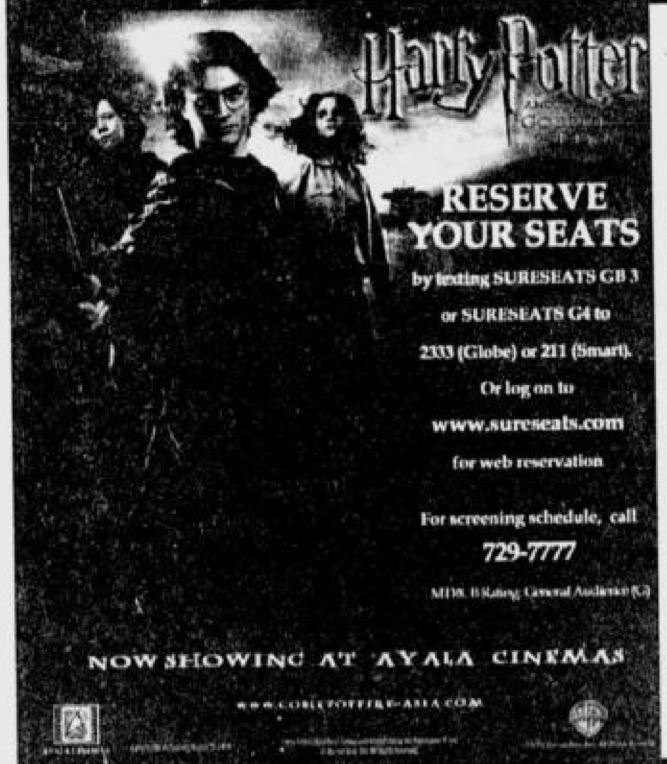
		4 FLIGHTPLAN



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Billy Crawford starrer on DVD

From page A2-4

turns on him, Rawlings takes a perilous step that could lead her into forced retirement. Watch the season finale to find out if Mickey will go down when his past is scrutinized, and if Rawlings will relinquish her position as Captain without a fight.

'Exorcism' premiere

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Told in harrowing flashbacks, the film chronicles the haunting trial of a Catholic priest accused of negligence resulting in the death of a young girl believed to be possessed by the devil. Stars include Laura Linney, Tom Wilkinson and Jennifer Carpenter. The movie starts its regular run on Nov. 23.

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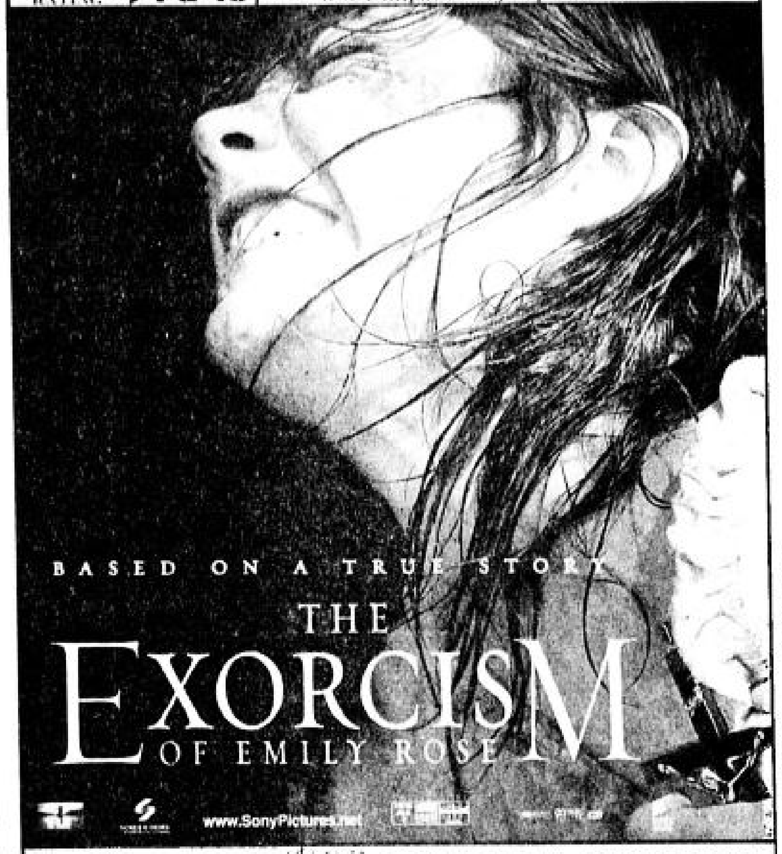
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4 pm : Five Feminist Minutes (Canada)
7 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
9:30 pm : Phir Milenge (India)

Nov. 25 (Friday, Filipino Day!)
1 pm : Ang Tanging Ina
4 pm : Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo
7 pm : Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?
9:30 pm : Moral

Nov. 26 (Saturday)
1 pm : She Says: Women In News (US)
4 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
7 pm : Te Doy Mis Ojos (Spain)
9:30 pm : The Road Home (China)

Nov 27 (Sunday)
1 pm : Five Feminist Minutes (Canada)
4 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
7 pm : Baran (Iran)
9:30 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (US) (HBO)

Nov 28 (Monday)
1 pm : Dahil Mahal Kita (Philippines)
4 pm : Manthan (India)
7 pm : Frida (Mexico)
9:30 pm : Anak (Philippines)

Nov 29(Tuesday)
1 pm : Tumaini (Tanzania)
4 pm : Baran (Iran)
7 pm : The Road Home (China)
9:30 pm : She Says: Women In News (US)

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HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 FLIGHT PLAN

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY) FOUR BROTHERS
4 (DOLBY) WAITING

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 MASAHISTA

Starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 DOMINO
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 MASAHISTA

MARKETMARKET
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 SPEED RUN
3 SORUM
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 , 833.3274
1 MASAHISTA
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHT PLAN

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604206, 5433994
1 CRY WOLF
2 SHANGHAI LILY
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 FLIGHT PLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) CLOSED
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.0489
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 CLOSED
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 ISPIRITISTA

Starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) WAR EAGLE
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 SAPLOT
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 BELPHEGOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3 WAITING
4 FLIGHT PLAN
5 MASAHISTA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WAITING
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 PARAISONG GUBAT
4 FLIGHT PLAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 DOMINO
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAYMAY BUMAYO

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movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

PREMIERE

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Nov. 22 • Cinema 11

Manila
JUST LIKE HEAVEN
Nov. 25 • Cinema 1

Megamall
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
Nov. 28 • Cinema 4

Megamall
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
Nov. 29 • Cinema 2

Megamall
AN UNFINISHED LIFE
Dec. 1 • Cinema 2

Megamall
THE FOG
Dec. 5 • Cinema 1

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00FS/12:20MF/03:30/06:40
09:20LFS/09:50LMF/12:30END
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
02:10FS/02:40MF/05:50
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END

MEGAMALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
01:10FS/01:35MF/04:40
07:20LFS/07:45LMF/10:20END
2 DOOM
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:10
03:55LFS/04:10LMF/05:55END
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:05FS/12:25MF/03:30/06:35
09:15LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 LORD OF WAR
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 FOUR BROTHERS
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 ISPIRITISTA
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 DOOM

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 MY SASSY GIRL
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 WAITING
9 DEUCE BIGALOW
10 DOOM

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 WAITING
2 CRY WOLF
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 DOOM

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 CRY WOLF
8 DOOM
9 FOUR BROTHERS
10 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY MANILA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 FOUR BROTHERS
12 FLIGHTPLAN

SM CINEMA [illegible]
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 FLIGHTPLAN
6 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BACOOR
1 CRY WOLF
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 FLIGHTPLAN

SM City BATANGAS
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 DOOM

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 DOOM
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY ILOILO
1 DOOM
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
6 WAITING

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 DOOM
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:15, 2:40, 6:05, 9:30
GP
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00
GP
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15
GP
4 FLIGHT PLAN
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP
1:15, 4:30, 7:45
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP
11:15, 2:30, 5:45, 9:00
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP
12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
4 FLIGHTPLAN
MTRCB PG-13
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB GP 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30
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CINEMA 1 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP 10:30, 1:55, 5:20, 8:50
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00
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CINEMA 3 FLIGHT PLAN PG13 10:40, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
CINEMA 4 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:45, 10:10
CINEMA 5 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP 11:20, 2:45, 6:10, 9:40
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November 18, 2005 K. PROSAS 8PM
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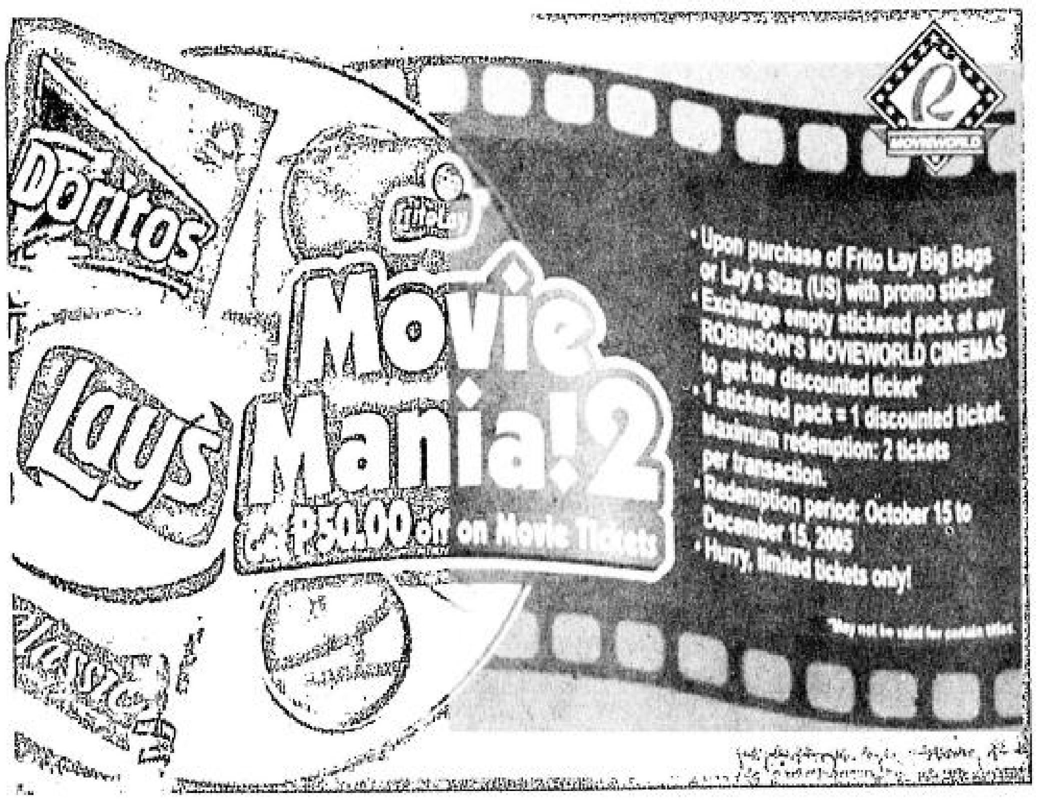
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Araneta Center Leisure Guide
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:25 / 12:00 / 12:40 / 1:20
2:00 / 2:20 / 2:35 / 3:10 / 3:40
4:20 / 5:10 / 5:20 / 5:45 / 6:20
6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 8:55 / 9:30 / 9:40
FLIGHT PLAN
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 1:20 / 4:30 / 7:40
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
3 FLIGHT PLAN 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
4 WAITING 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
5 ISPIRITISTA 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Nov 23 Wed | COCA COLA vs AIR 21 4:40 pm
SAN MIGUEL vs ALASKA 7:25 pm
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November 25, Friday 8pm
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Billy Crawford starrer on DVD

BILLY CRAWFORD IS RELIEVED TO LEARN that his "cancelled" starrer, "Dominion: A Prequel to The Exorcist," has gotten a new lease on life and released direct to DVD.

In **Paul Schrader's** version, which was axed because it was deemed too cerebral and not gory enough, the Fil-Am singer-actor plays an early victim of the devil, a cripple in South Africa who gets healthy under possession.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

That's a big switch over the usual tales of demonic possession, like **Remmy Harlin's** "approved" but unsuccessful version, which goes the usual disfigurement and "pea soup vomit" route.

It turns out that Billy landed his plum role in "Dominion" when the **John Frankerheimer** was attracted to direct, with **Liam Nelson** to star.

Let Billy tell the story as he recalls it: "I was going through a tough time with my singing career, so I told my agent to look for a movie for me, so I could take a breather. After all, I'd been singing in the Philippines since I was five.

"So I got this audition and landed the job. It was odd, even the progress of it, starting with Frankenheimer passing away. I broke my jaw two months before filming. Then, I'd walk on the set and lights would fuse. It was bizarre! In addition, a friend of mine died. To top it all, the film didn't come out! I didn't know what to do. I just had to pick up the pieces and concentrate on music, and that's where I am now."

Billy admits that his film's (temporary) cancellation was a big blow. "I was devastated. It's one thing to talk to the movie press and say, 'Listen, the movie's not going ahead.' It often happens.

"But, as a musician, if you're talking to teenybopper magazines about your starring in a new movie, there's a big build-up. And then, suddenly, there's nothing? That's a very big deal. But you have to move on. Anyway, I'm excited about its finally being seen. But I'm a little sad at the same time. I just wish it had gone the way it was meant to."

Billy can take some consolation in reviewers' verdict that "Dominion" is better than Harlin's "Exorcist: The Beginning." For instance, Entertainment Weekly opines, "Schrader's film is elegantly framed and stately, where the other one was music-video pushy."

In "Dominion," the 40-ish Fr. Merrin (**Stellar Skarsgaard**) undergoes a crisis of faith after being forced, at Nazi gunpoint, to make a fatal moral choice.

Trading his priest's robes for an archaeologist's khakis, Merrin arrives in East Africa, where he finds an old church, buried in the sand, haunted by the "spirit." The movie's DVD has been released locally by Warner Home Video.

Season finale

WITH a sterling cast including **Glenn Close** in her Emmy-nominated performance as Capt. Monica Rawlings, and Emmy and Golden Globe winner **Michael Chiklis**, season four of "The Shield" on AXN has proven itself to be a gritty, hard-hitting cop dream that's ahead of time.

Depicting the tough, ambiguous world of an inner city Los Angeles police precinct, the series' fourth season has garnered two 2005 Emmy nominations, a 2005 Golden Globe nomination for best actor, and a Golden Satellite nomination for Best Television series.

In the season finale (Thursday, Nov. 24, 11 p.m.), Capt. Rawlings has Vic Mackey (Chiklis) ensure that a criminal remains convicted, and he resorts to unscrupulous means to do so.

Just as Mickey's new informant

BILLY/A2-3

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Gov't saves ₱3.9B in debt payments

As interest rates fall below forecast

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SAVED P3.9 BILlion in debt payments in the first 10 months of the year as the interest-rate environment had been more favorable than expected.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that the government's expenses for interest on its loans stood at only P267 billion in the 10 months to October, compared with the P270.9-billion ceiling set for the period.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said that savings from interest payments were due to the fact that interest rates have been lower than projections. The more favorable interest rate environment was partly attributed to the government's improving fiscal standing, Cruz added.

He cited the case of the 91-day treasury bills whose yield has been hovering at the 5-percent level, when the government actually expected it to average at 8.5 percent this year. This means that the government only has to pay a 5-percent interest on its loans with a 91-day maturity, instead of the programmed 8.5 percent.

The lower spending for interest payments would further boost the government's chances of hitting a budget deficit that is lower than the official ceiling of P180 billion for 2005.

The DOF had said that the 2005 budget deficit would likely fall below P180 billion as government spending in the past months has been lower than programmed. Aside from interest payments, other expenditures such as on subsidies to other government entities have required a lesser amount than originally set.

For the January-to-October period, total government spending stood at P776.7 billion, or P27 billion lower than the ceiling of P803.7 billion.

With revenues hitting P661.2 billion in the first 10 months of the year, the budget deficit for the period stood at P115.5 billion. The deficit figure was more than P40 billion lower than the P156-billion ceiling set for the period.

The lower-than-expected budget deficit is an indication of an improving fiscal position, but the government has been doing it largely through tightening of expenditures, which is supposed to be increased if it wants to boost economic growth using fiscal policy.

Resigned Smart exec eyes foreign post

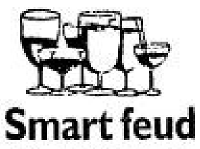
By Clarissa S. Batino

A PLUM POST IN AN INDONESIAN MObile phone company awaits Smart Communications Inc.'s marketing whiz Anastacio Martirez, who has turned down the offer of First Pacific Co. Ltd. to join its food business.

"I was not fired. I was in fact offered by no less than MVP (Manuel V. Pangilinan) the choice of a post in Del Monte should his plans for the company materialize or a job in Indofood," Martirez said in a text message. "I, however, graciously passed on either offers and decided to

RESIGNED/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE



Smart feud disARMed
/B2

Delayed P18.6-B refund to Meralco clients starts
/B11

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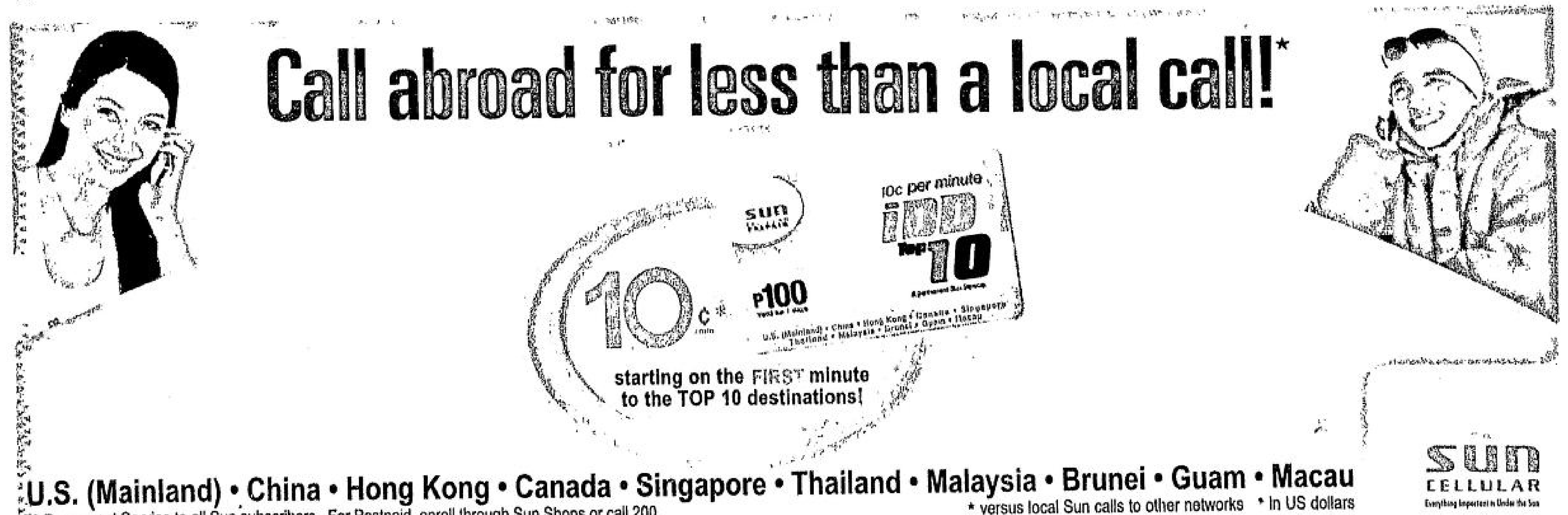

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Smart feud disARMed

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE MANAGEMENT FEUD THAT HAD BEEN bubbling for years in Smart was finally resolved last week with Smart marketing brains Anastacio R. Martirez accepting a CEO position at the new Indonesian cellular phone company, Mobile 8.

Mobile 8, incidentally, lists among its board of commissioners an Edward Anthony Tortorici, who also happens to sit as a board member of First Pacific, the Hong Kong parent of PLDT and Smart.

Martirez, a Smart original from day one, had earlier spurned an offer to take up an advisory position at the Del Monte Pacific should First Pacific win in its takeover bid of the fruit and beverage concern.

(Another Filipino, the Indonesia-based Cesar dela Cruz, who is deputy CEO of First Pacific's Indofood, is expected to head the Philippine operations of Del Monte should First Pacific's takeover attempt succeed.)

Apparently, Martirez grew tired of waiting—or plotting, depending on whose side is talking—as successor to Smart president Napoleon Nazareno, with whom he allegedly had an unwritten succession compact until the irreconcilable personality differences got in the way and finally came to a head the other weekend.

What apparently happened was that 10 group heads met with Nazareno the other Saturday to say they could no longer work with Martirez, who revels in his reputation as a tough task master and in his 24/7 work habits.

Nazareno then met with Pangilinan and presented the latter with an ultimatum, either Martirez goes or he (Nazareno) and the PLDT/Smart 10 go.

But rather than be sidelined to Indofood or to the expected Del Monte position that was being offered to him to defuse the situation, Martirez instead chose to pack up and resign.

In any case, the rumored Mobile 8 offer of triple-the-present salary was too good to be passed upon, with key Smart marketing executive Alex Caeg already taking the plunge, apparently as advance party for Martirez.

Another Martirez loyalist, Brenda Dichoso, has also resigned, apparently to accept an offer from the call center People Support.

Over the weekend, the PLDT and Smart management had their hands full trying damage-control, calming the shell-shocked staff, especially those loyal and will be orphaned by Martirez, and stanching the feared exodus.

Silverio condo saved

THE TUSCANY unit of polo player Ricardo Silverio Jr. has been saved for now from the clutches of Silverio's ex-polo buddy, Banco Filipino heir Albert "Bobby" Aguirre.

Las Piñas Regional Trial Court Judge Bonifacio Sanz Maceda issued a writ of preliminary injunction stopping an Aguirre-controlled company from auctioning the Ayala Ave. condo unit amid allegations of questionable intra-Aguirre transfers of the original mortgage papers from Banco Filipino.

Sanz Maceda, who had been praised by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. for his "efficient administration of justice," also denied the Aguirre lawyers' motion for the judge to inhibit himself.

Ironically, despite his running feud with his namesake father, Silverio's Tuscany case was represented by the father's lawyer, Vicente Chuidian, who has secured a Supreme Court victory to retake the Calatagan estate that had been "foreclosed" by Aguirre from the Silverios.

Silverio Jr. himself wrote a pained letter to dispute allegations that he had forged the family corporate papers when he mortgaged the Calatagan polo farm to Aguirre in the mid-90s, claiming his father does not own a single share in the said Silverio companies.

He branded as fabrications accounts of his "history of pharmaceutical predilections" that had apparently crept up even in legal pleadings.

"As to my 'predilections,' I am an avowed golf addict with a single-digit handicap, an occasional drinker (admittedly, more than 'occasional' in the past) and a doting father I am told," Silverio Jr. wrote.

"Those are the loves of my life, not necessarily in that order."

Heard through the grapevine

A SENIOR-LEVEL hirings and firings exercise is underway at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Resigned Smart exec ...

From page B1

leave the group for a telecom offer elsewhere." Indofood is First Pacific's food-manufacturing concern.

Pangilinan, chair of Smart and its parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said he would meet with Smart's managers next week to heal the wounds caused by the bitter infighting between Martirez and a group of senior officials that included Smart president Napoleon Nazareno and resigned chief financial adviser Peter Lawrence.

"There shouldn't be any camps. We are all working for the same company," Pangilinan said in an interview.

Pangilinan stressed that the problem was an internal one and that the Salim family, which owns First Pacific (owner of 24 percent of PLDT) did not even know about the infighting.

Martirez declined to say exactly which telecom company he would join, except to note that it would be offshore and not a local competitor of Smart.

Other sources said Martirez had been offered the chief executive post by Indonesian cellular firm Mobile-8.

Mobile-8 is 70.52-percent controlled by publicly listed PT Bimantara Citra, previously owned and controlled by former President Suharto's son Bambang Trihatmodjo. Other shareholders included Bimantara subsidiary PT Centralindo Panca Sakti with 9.54 percent, Asialink with 8.5 percent and a consortium of Qualcomm Inc. and Samsung Electronics of South Korea.

With the Mobile-8 offer on the table, sources said Martirez brought the management infighting to a head last week when he asked Pangilinan to choose between him and Nazareno.

"It was a win-win for him. He either gets to be CEO of Smart or CEO of this Indonesian company," said a source.

Insiders said Martirez had been at loggerheads with several senior managers at Smart and PLDT. But Martirez denied this.

"It is not true that I cannot get along with colleagues and Polly (Nazareno)," he said. "Just a few guys viewing policy differences but we always get Polly to resolve it."

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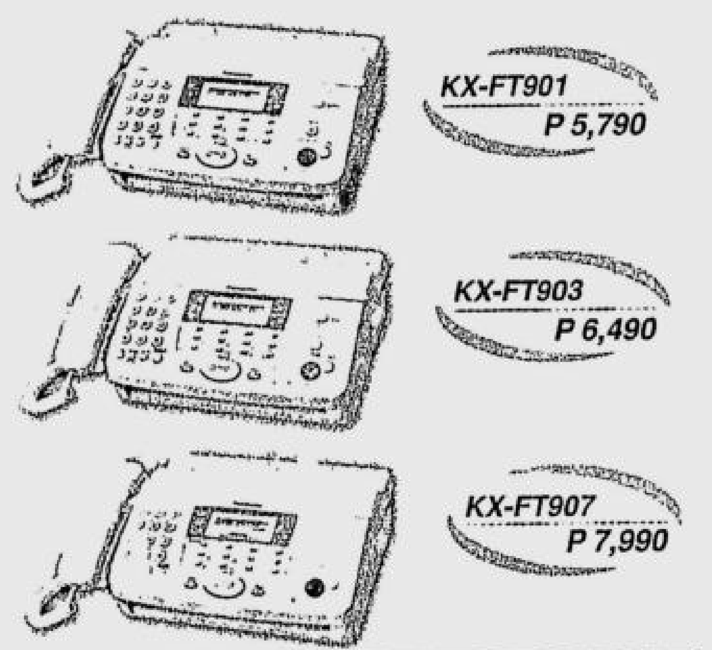

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KX-FA57E
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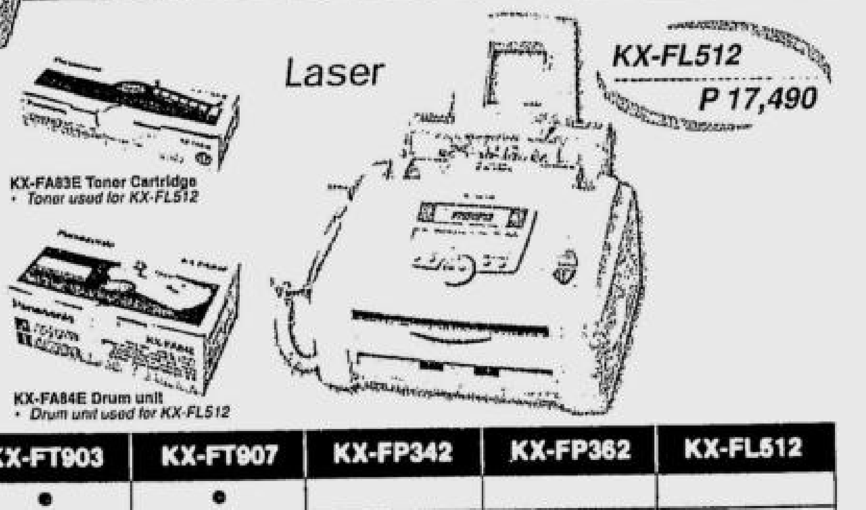

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Belle net profit surged 424% to ₱445M in first 9 months

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MALL TYCOON Henry Sy has beefed up his group's stake in leisure property developer Belle Corp. to more than 22 percent.

The development comes on the heels of a sharp rise in Belle's earnings from January to September.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SM Development Corp. has bought an additional 65.2 million Belle shares, bringing its total holdings to 534.6 million shares or more than 22 percent of the company.

In a financial report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Belle said its net earnings for the nine months ending Sept. 30 hit P445.1 million, a 425-percent increase from P84.8 million during the same period in 2004.

Net revenues from sales of real estate and club shares for the nine months surged by P241.2 million or 74 percent to P568.7 million from P327.5 million in the same period last year. This came mainly from the sales of farm lots at its Plantation Hills project at the Greenlands in Tagaytay, and sales of house and lot units at the company's new residential subdivision, The Parks at Saratoga Hills, also in Tagaytay.

The first phase of Plantation Hills, called The Sanctuary, was launched in September 2003, while the second and third phases (named The Ridge and The Meadows, respectively) were both launched in December 2004. The most recent phase (The Heights) was launched in July 2005.

Total operating expenses declined 12 percent to P79.1 million from P89.4 million after the company disposed of fixed assets. Belle's earnings from real estate operations also surged 88 percent to P264.8 million, compared with P141.1 million in the same period last year.

Pancake House sets expansion

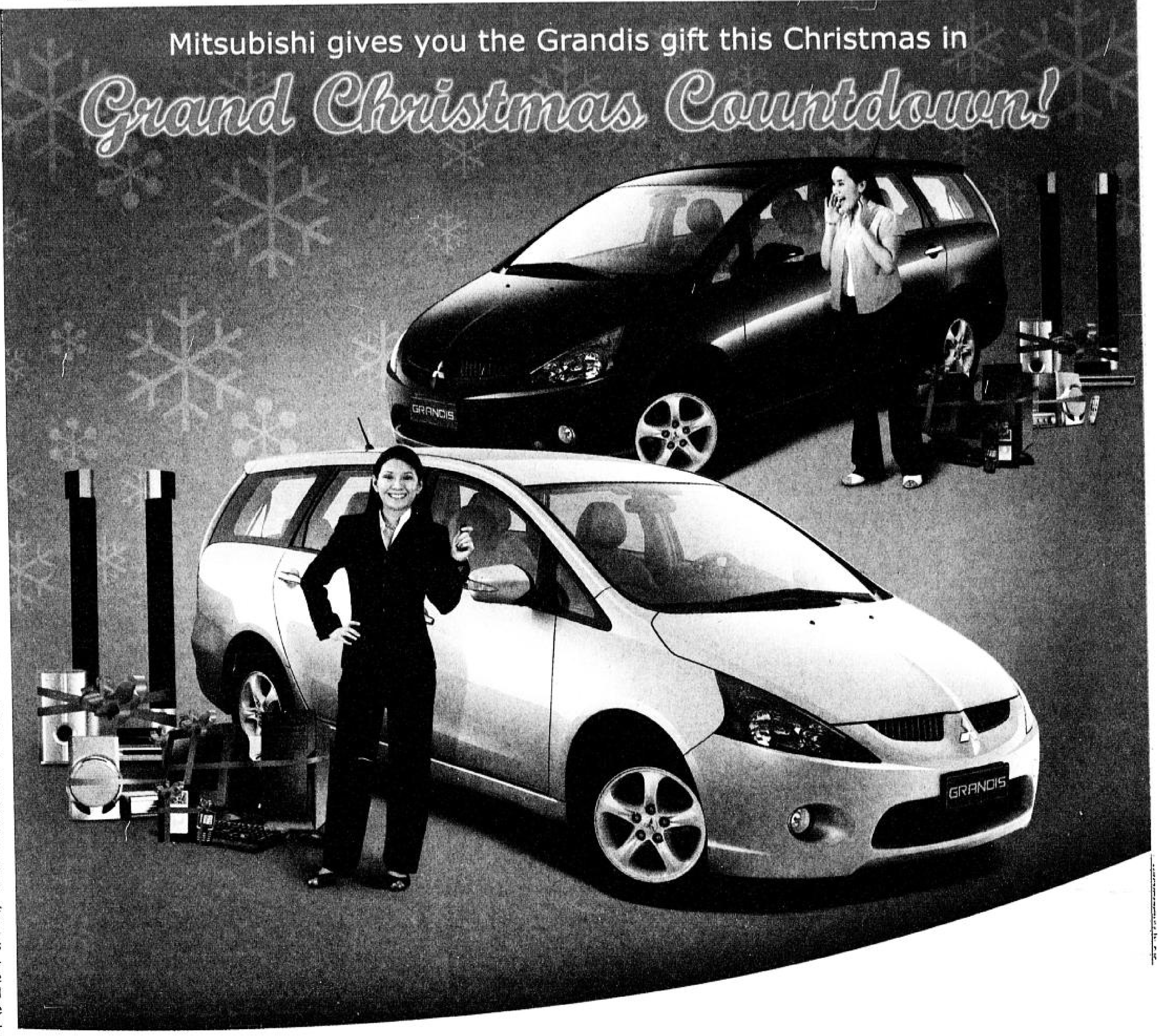
PANCAKE HOUSE INC. is spending roughly P120 million to open new stores next year, restaurant chain chair Martin Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo forecast that this year, the Pancake House chain of restaurant brands would end with 92 outlets, and increase this by 17 more to 109 outlets in 2006.

The chain is composed of Pancake House, Dencio's and the recently acquired Japanese fast food chain Teriyaki Boy. By the end of 2005, the group will have 62 Pancake House restaurants, 20 Dencio's outlets and 10 Teriyaki Boy stores.

In 2006, Lorenzo projected that Pancake House would add six to grow to 68 restaurants, five more to Dencio's to expand it to 25 and six more Teriyaki Boy outlets to reach 16. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

34 days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Unwarranted gloating

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Cielito Habito

THE STOCK MARKET AND THE FOREIGN exchange market may be looking upbeat these days, but as I said last week, that shouldn't mean it's time to celebrate, gloat, and/or get complacent. Too many people, specially those in high places, would like us to believe that positive market movements are due to internal developments within our economy. The implementation of the expanded VAT, in particular, tends to be given more credit than it deserves for supposedly lifting market sentiments, and even improving confidence in the economy in general. It should be welcome news if there is indeed stronger confidence from the business community in our economic outlook. But are recent positive market movements in fact being driven by improved confidence due to internal developments within the country?

Fickle funds

Not quite, according to my friend Benson Te, an exceptionally perceptive market analyst whose contrarian analyses have consistently been affirmed and given him gloating rights once in a while. For some time now, he has been pointing out that developments in the domestic stock and currency markets largely mirror the trends in the markets of the entire Asia-Pacific region. One only needs to eyeball the graphs of the Asia-Pacific Dow Jones index and of the Phisix to see how closely they move together.

What this means is that the ups and downs of our stock and currency markets are mainly caused by inward and outward flows of global funds into this part of the world as a whole. The proportion of our stock market transactions coming from local funds is actually a mere fraction of the total. Like it or not, it is fickle foreign funds that have always driven the market, and by all indications, their movement in and out of the region is conditioned primarily by global variables like oil and commodity prices, and the strength or weakness of the US dollar in major currency markets.

Hot money

Sure, internal developments within the country may occasionally cause day-to-day knee-jerk movements in our own stock market. But beyond that, what happens in the country would have little to do with general market trends. The exception, of course, would be extreme events, whether positive or negative. Declare a debt moratorium, for example, and sure enough, we could expect our markets to collapse overnight.

Right now, there is clear indication that a lot more funds are flowing into the region compared to a year ago. Government data indicate that $2.05 billion flowed in to buy Philippine stocks, debt paper and other short-term securities in the first 10 months of the year. This is more than eight times the amount ($254 million) that came in within the same period last year. We are talking here of the so-called "hot money" that is to be distinguished from direct investments into factories, equipment and actual production operations.

Global excess liquidity

Te, among just a few others, attributes this year's surge mainly to global excess liquidity. That is, there is simply too much money out there looking for a place to go, and much of it is flowing into Asia. We are merely getting our share of it, and analysts keep telling me we are actually at the tailend of the queue. Excess liquidity—or money beyond what is needed to finance real economic transactions—has in fact shot up over the past decade, notes Morgan Stanley's analyst Joachim Fels. He observes that global excess liquidity is still on the rise even after the US Federal Reserve Bank raised interest rates from 1 percent to 4 percent, a move that has succeeded in reducing excess liquidity within the United States.

But markets are now global, and what the other major central banks are doing also matters. And the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan and other central banks have actually been pumping up money supply to stimulate their own respective economies. In the past year, money supply reportedly grew 9.8 percent in Australia, 11.2 percent in Britain, 9.8 percent in Canada, 16.3 percent in Denmark, 5.6 percent in Sweden, 6.3 percent in Switzerland, 6.6 percent in the United States, and 8.5 percent in the Euro area. That's a lot of new money pumped into the system. No wonder our region is getting deluged.

Immune to bombs, riots

So you think expectations of a buoyant economy, growing corporate earnings and

NO FREE LUNCH/ B12

ERC to decide on power supply pact

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULatory Commission is set to come out within this week a resolution that will finally put in place a transition supply contract between National Power Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said the regulatory body would finally rule on the matter, after Meralco and Napocor, together with the state-run Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), failed to reach an agreement on their own.

"They've submitted themselves to our jurisdiction, so we'll decide now," he said. "But this decision will not only cover Meralco but also the other power distributors in Luzon."

The yet-to-be-issued ERC resolution aims to assure Luzon power users of stable and affordable prices amid a changing electricity environment.

"The common denominator (for Meralco and the other Luzon distribution utilities) is the objective of bringing the lowest rates to consumers. This resolution will eventually benefit end-users," Albano said.

Meralco vice president and utility economics head Ivanna dela Peña had earlie said that end-Septem ber was the "working deadline" for all par ties involved in th TSC negotiation.

Napocor, PSALM and Meralco negotia tors actually met wit the ERC in lat September to ex change more informa tion and update th regulatory body.

The main issu that Meralco, Napoc or and PSALM wer trying to iron ou then had to do wit

ERC/ B6

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ePDS Achieves ISO 9001:2000 Certification

BVQI Country Chief Executive Yasuo Takehisa and QMS/SA Auditor and Marketing Manager Margarita Hockenhull (leftmost and 2nd from left) with ePDS executives (from third from left) President May Antonia Sinnung, General Manager Tettet Tangco, Corporate Secretary Atty. Georgina Martinez, Director Mariano Galicia, and Director Emmanuel P. Dizon

ePDS is now ISO 9001:2000 certified

Leading outsourced printing and mail services provider ePDS recently received its first ISO 9001:2000 certification from Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI), the world's most widely recognized certification body.

The awarding ceremony, held at the ePDS office in Makati, became a double celebration as ePDS also marked its second year anniversary. Joining the ePDS employees for the festivities were its President May Antonia Sinnung and General Manager Tettet Tangco. Members of ePDS' Board of Directors Emmanuel P. Dizon and Mariano Galicia, as well as Corporate Secretary Atty. Georgina Martinez also attended the event. Presenting the certification were BVQI Country Chief Executive Yasuo Takehisa, and QMS/SA Auditor and Marketing Manager Margarita Hockenhull.

A subsidiary of premier ICT company ePLDT, ePDS offers world-class outsourcing services, specializing in IT, printing and mail enveloping, and mail distribution. ePDS provides total customer communication solutions and other value added services to customer-focused companies in the Philippines.

ePDS accomplished its Quality Management Standard certification after only a six-month assessment period, the only local company of its kind to achieve such a feat in just a very short period. Remarked Hockenhull, "Acquiring an ISO achievement in just six months is truly impressive because there's lot of hard work involved during the assessment period. We are really proud to certify ePDS and we are confident that the company will continuously implement the Quality Management Standard."

For ePDS, the certification was a rewarding experience for everyone in the company. Tangco relates, "Each one of us here in ePDS is filled with a sense of pride and fulfillment at having achieved the ISO 9001:2000 certification. Our experience and discipline helped us achieve our goals, and our attitude and determination gave us that extra boost in reaching our target."

With the ISO 9001:2000 certification, clients are assured that ePDS will conduct operations that are within recognized and externally audited management standards, ensuring consistency and improvement of working practices. "Our clients will be more confident as our ISO Certification attests to our commitment for an efficient and effective quality management that provides continuous quality assurance of exceptional service to all of our clients," states Tangco.

After garnering their first ISO certification, ePDS will continue to work hard in keeping true to the requirements of the Quality Management Standard. "This certification entails the dedication to consistency to ensure that we only provide service of the highest quality," says Tangco. The company also looks forward to the challenge of achieving other standard certifications. "We're already setting our sights on achieving a BS7799 Information Security standard," relates Tangco. With such impressive achievements, and with people armed with drive and determination, this may soon be another feather in the cap of ePDS.

Messages

My warmest greetings to ePDS, Inc. as you receive your first ISO 9001:2000 from Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI).

This certification is proof of your unwavering commitment to continually upgrade your facilities and technical expertise in response to your clients' needs, particularly in the outsourcing and IT services that you specialize in. By providing total customer communication solutions and other value-added services to customer-focused companies in the Philippines, you help achieve our niche in ICT and keep our competitive edge in labor and skills-intensive industries in the world market.

I hope that you will continue to do your share in generating employment for our people.

As we work together to create a conducive business environment for local and foreign investors, continue to support the Administration's revenue measures and fiscal reform programs and, together, we will speed up our economic take-off and beat the odds.

I wish you all the success in all your future endeavors.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Our warmest greetings to the management and staff of ePDS on your company's achievement of an ISO 9001:2000 Certification from Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI).

It is heartening to note that after only a year of operations, ePDS as a subsidiary of ePLDT, the country's leading broad-based IT company, has successfully become the leading outsourced mail services provider in the country.

We are also pleased to note that ePDS has established itself in the field of IT, printing and mail enveloping, and mail distribution, and is committed to provide the highest level not only of customer satisfaction, but most importantly of quality service that is conducted within the recognized quality management system standard.

This dedication and commitment of ePDS has definitely paid off as reflected in its achievement of a certification of compliance to ISO 9001:2000 from BVQI – one of the world's most widely recognized certification body. This is a feat for ePDS as it is the only company that has been able to achieve this award after only a six-month assessing period. With this certification, ePDS's clients are assured that the company has a good Quality Management System (QMS) in place and that it complies with quality standards set forth and required by the BVQI and other companies as well.

To the men and women behind ePDS, our sincerest congratulations and best wishes for success as you pursue your firm commitment to quality and excellence.

Mabuhay!

PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary

ePDS: A commitment to quality and excellence

Outsourcing has become a common practice among companies, given the present competitive business climate. By transferring the operational responsibility of certain businesses processes or infrastructure management, companies can focus on their core competencies while leaving these equally vital processes to expert service providers.

Today, leading businesses have come to rely on ePDS for world-class outsourcing services. Specializing in IT, printing and mail enveloping, and mail distribution, ePDS provides total customer communication solutions and other value added services to customer-focused companies in the Philippines.

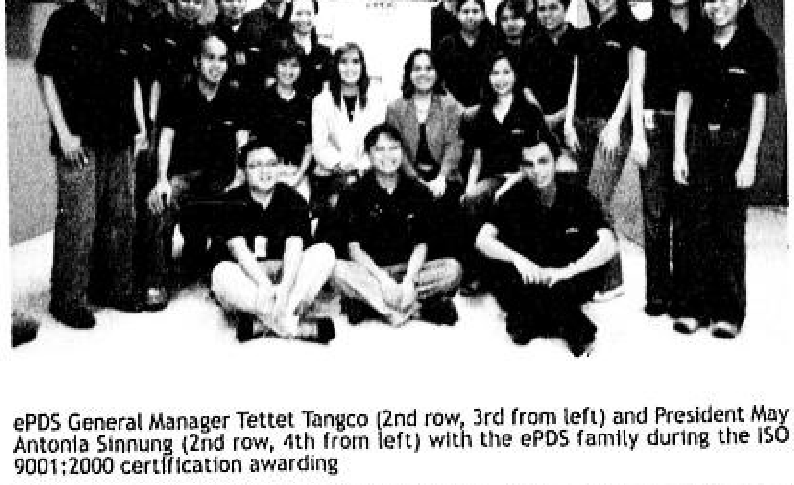
A subsidiary of premier ICT company ePLDT, ePDS has risen to become the leading outsourced mail services provider in the country, after only a year of operations. Its clientele is comprised of companies in the telecommunications, cable, banking and finance, insurance, direct marketing, real estate and offset printing industries.

From being a six-man team, ePDS now has 22 skilled and expert people in its employ. ePDS also utilizes state-of-the-art technology that answers the specific printing and other mail processing needs of its clients.

ePDS offers a host of services including Data Formatting, Laser Printing, Mail Processing, Manual Letter Shopping, CD-Based Data Archive and Retrieval, Document Imaging, Archiving and Retrieval, and Check Sorting, Imaging, Archiving and Retrieval. These are complemented by other value-added services such as system application development and disaster recovery measures tailor-made to suit each client's requirements. ePDS also provides the utmost in security and confidentiality.

ePDS is committed to providing the highest quality of service to its clients. Given this, ePDS obtained its first ISO 9001:2000 certification from Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI), the most widely recognized certification body in the world. The certification came after only a 6-month assessing period, making ePDS the only company of its kind to achieve such a feat. With the ISO 9001:2000 certification, clients are assured that ePDS will conduct operations that are within recognized and externally audited management standards, ensuring consistency and improvement of working practices.

With such an accomplishment, and armed with expert people and superior technology, ePDS continues its rise to success driven by its commitment to quality and excellence.



ePDS General Manager Tettet Tangco (2nd row, 3rd from left) and President May Antonia Sinnung (2nd row, 4th from left) with the ePDS family during the ISO 9001:2000 certification awarding

Our Journey to Quality Excellence

Members of the ePDS family unveil the ISO 9001:2000 certification marker (from left) Director Mariano L. Galicia; Systems Development Officer Efren Retaga; Customer Service Head Kathryn Sanchez; Finance and Administration Head Evette Borlaza; President May Antonia Z. Sinnung; General Manager Tettet M. Tangco; Production Head Neil Prudence Ruiz; Business Support Officer John Allen Cordero; and Corporate Secretary Atty. Georgina Y. Martinez

It is said that Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution. The pursuit of quality is the cornerstone upon which ePDS, Inc. has embodied its vision to delight its customers with globally accepted, competitive and high level quality outsourcing services.

With a clear mindset and willingness for Quality Excellence, the ePDS Team embarked on this journey just a few months right after the first year of commercial operations. Each employee was trained to become aware of a Quality Management System where procedures are maintained and responsibilities are both consistent and effective throughout each process. To achieve this, ePDS, Inc. Management and Staff had to collectively recognize the importance and display continued commitment and enthusiasm for delivering on-time quality service.

On February 2005, the company's Quality Policy Statement was created not only to conform to ISO 9001:2000 standards but to also serve as the key factor to standardize operating procedures in all process areas and develop forms and written documentation describing the actual steps in the work flow which would fulfill customer requirements. As the framework of the procedures and documents had started to fall in place, formal trainings were gradually conducted starting the end of the first quarter this year by each process owner to instill awareness, understanding and compliance during application.

Later on, internal audits in different areas were conducted to ensure that the established processes and procedures were being followed and had a positive impact on the way the company does business. Through this activity there were some processes, procedures and documents that were identified for enhancement. With high spirits, the ePDS Team openly welcomed the input and feedback to further reaffirm the commitment to Quality Excellence and immediately rectify or make the necessary refinements to attain ISO Certification.

The Pre-Assessment Audit conducted last July 29, 2005 by an external assessor, Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI), was a significant activity as it would gauge ePDS' readiness for the Final Assessment and subsequently, ISO Certification. BVQI's Pre-Assessment Audit results were favorable verifying ePDS, Inc. had a Quality Management System meeting regulatory and customer quality requirements, enhancing customer satisfaction, and the continuous improvement of business processes.

Even with the affirmation from the Pre-Assessment Audit, the ePDS Team continued to focus and show unwavering determination to overcome the final hurdle which was the Final Audit scheduled last August 22, 2005.

More significantly , the process of ISO 9001:2000 certification has taken ePDS, Inc. only six (6) months to complete, culminating in a one-day Final Audit by three BVQI auditors who covered all ePDS process areas. Though the concluding results did not leave ePDS, Inc. unscathed, in the end, BVQI had highly recommended the ISO 9001:2000 Certification.

With much anticipation and elation, ePDS, Inc. received the Certification Document from BVQI last September 20, 2005 with Certificate Number 179141.

Moving to an ISO 9001:2000 Registered Quality Management System allows ePDS, Inc. to gain additional confidence from our existing customers. For ePDS, this significant feat spells the big difference.

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ERC to decide on power supply …

From page B4

the procurement level that would be in effect once the contract has been signed.

This would be the amount of electricity that Meralco would draw from Napocor plants up to the expiration of the contract a year after the declaration of retail competition and open access.

But, having missed the supposed "working deadline",' the ERC would now step in to help the parties arrive at a resolution.

Under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), Napocor has to negotiate a TSC with each of its power distributor-customers in preparation for retail competition and open access in the distribution sector.

Among those that have already signed TSCs with Napocor and PSALM were the Aboitizes' Visayan Electric Co. and Davao Light and Power Co., as well as Cagayan de Oro Power and Light Co.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar had earlier committed that all ongoing negotiations for TSCs and other bilateral contracts with its distributor-customers would be concluded by October. Similar negotiations with the state firm's industrial customers should be completed by December.

As of September, Napocor documents showed that the state firm had 79 distributor-customers with supplemental agreements that had to be converted to TSCs. As of Sept. 6, only 21 of these had been filed with the ERC, while the other 56 were still under negotiation.

The state firm also has 48 utility-customers awaiting new TSCs. Of these, only 13 have been signed and filed before the ERC, while 33 are still being negotiated.

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Peso seen improving in 2006

By Michelle V. Remo

GUINIGUNDO

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has improved its outlook on the peso's movement next year, expecting the local currency to average between 54 and 55 to a US dollar, due to an improving fiscal picture.

The BSP earlier said the peso would settle at between 55 and 57 to a US dollar in 2006.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters that the recent gains in the peso, which the Arroyo administration attributed to the implementation of the VAT Reform law last Nov. 1, would still be reflected on the peso next year.

The BSP's forecast on the peso was more conservative compared with that of some market analysts.

Investment bank UBS is bullish on the peso, expecting it to average at 53 to a US dollar next year.

The last time the peso hit the 53 level was in May 2003.

UBS said its forecast had to do partly with the implementation of the new VAT law, seen by some financial market players as an effective tool to solve the government's budget woes.

Increasing remittances from overseas Filipino workers would also boost the local currency, it added.

The new VAT law expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent in February next year.

The government expects to raise an additional P77.8 billion a year in revenues from the VAT law, starting next year.

An improvement in the government's fiscal position encourages foreign investment inflows because it reflects the capability of the government to pay its debts and spend for vital services.

An increase in foreign currency inflows strengthens a local currency.

With projections that the peso would be stronger than expected, the BSP said average inflation for next year could come in below the forecast of 8-8.5 percent.

The BSP official said rising prices due to the increase in the VAT rate next year would likely be offset by the improved performance of the peso.

The two-percentage-point hike in the VAT rate was estimated to increase inflation by 2.5 percentage points.

While the stronger peso would ease inflation, it however poses a threat on the already weak income performance of the export sector.

A stronger peso means Philippine exports would become more expensive for foreigners.

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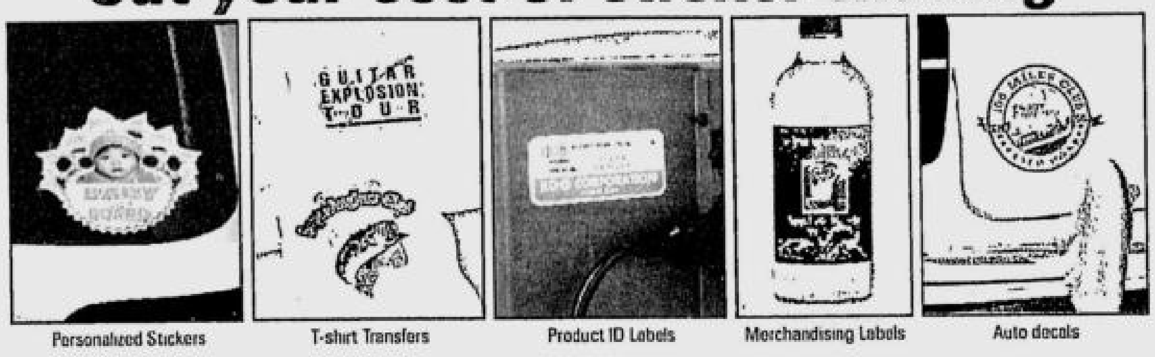

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of November 21, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,050,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,100,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	165,000
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Canyon Woods	130,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	60,000
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	140,000	90,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Eastridge "B"	120,000	-
Forest Hills "A"	140,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	Please Call	180,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf "A"	350,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	180,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,600,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	370,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	300,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	90,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayal Gold "A"	250,000	200,000
Mt. Malarayal Gold "C"	400,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	140,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	260,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	430,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	130,000
Spa & Lodge	530,000	-
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	Please Call	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,400,000	6,000,000

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ANVAYA COVE BEACH AND NATURE CLUB	Cash 30 as of Aug 23 2005
Class B (Ind / Corp) (Local & Foreign)	400,000
Class C (Corp)	726,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 18, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.65	3.8	3.65	3.8	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33.5	34	33.5	33.5	285,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	60	57	60	1,334,500
China Banking Corp.	605	610	605	610	1,030
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20	20	20	20	900
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	1,500,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	212,000
International Exch. Bank	20.75	21.25	20.75	21.25	97,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29.5	30	675,100
Philippine National Bank	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	100,200
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.5	13	12,000
Security Bank Corp.	34.5	35.5	34.5	35.5	566,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31	30.5	31	17,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24.75	25	24.5	25	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3055	3055	3050	3055	1,110
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	223,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2085	2090	2085	2090	8,370
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	2,720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	715	735	710	730	220,510
Ipeople Inc.	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.9	349,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.047	0.05	13,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	6,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.38	1.66	1.38	1.66	12,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	2,019,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1760	1765	1760	1765	138,100
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	250,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	69,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14	14	17,000
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.25	449,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.7	4,166,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.25	4.15	4.25	10,398,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.99	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.84	1.88	1.84	1.88	190,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	1,060,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.63	0.69	0.63	0.67	8,500,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	255,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	600,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	27	27.5	26	26	73,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	38.5	38	38	418,400
Pancake House Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.55	265,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	72,200
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	9	10	9	10	2,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	86,000,000
Ayala Corp.	315	322.5	315	320	471,950
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	225,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.16	40,000
APC Group Inc.	0.225	0.245	0.22	0.245	2,660,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	820,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3	15,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	600,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	4,776,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	170,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	250,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,720,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.4	3.25	3.3	4,345,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	8,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48	48.5	48	48	539,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	230,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.65	692,000
Keppel Holdings B	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	9,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.68	317,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	6,825,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	14,260,000
Paxys, Inc.	5.8	6.1	5.8	6.1	4,186,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	600,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	6,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	19,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	1,400,000
Sm Investments Corp.	248	252.5	247	250	206,980
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	4,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,800,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.125	0.125	8,580,000
Wellex Industries, Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	72,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	5,000
Pryce Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.99	1.02	14,070,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	265,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	3,800,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	28,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13	13.25	13	13	941,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	24,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.5	9.7	9.5	9.5	6,999,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	40,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,500,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.43	10,080,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.42	1.44	3,771,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	4,590,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	1,970,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	43,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	6,898,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	200,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	625,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	5,000
Benguet Corp. B	35	35	35	35	1,500
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	53,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	9,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	4,160,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	132,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	100,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.18	1.18	1.14	1.16	1,136,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.36	3,738,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	29	27	27.5	2,967,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	51,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	70,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	24,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	8,900,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	5,041,910	167,545,030.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	298,840,340	866,993,585.00
PRO	38,107,000	136,996,990.00
Mining	265,145,900	101,043,340.00
OIL	84,994,000	1,943,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	692,129,150	1,274,522,745.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	620.77	UP 21.84
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,232.88	UP 21.48
PRO	822.44	UP 8.14
Mining	2,635.60	UP 48.93
OIL	2.92	UP 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,262.23	UP 13.32
Composite	2,079.98	UP 23.85

NO. OF ADVANCES: 61, NO. OF DECLINES: 22, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 129, NO. OF TRADES: 3,404

PDEx GS BENCHMARKS

Friday, Nov. 18, 2005
Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx)
(as of 4:30 p.m.)

Tenor	Today	Change from previous day	Change from previous week	Change from previous month
1M	6.1750	0.08	-0.08	-0.18
3M	6.2000	0.08	-0.18	-0.30
6M	7.8750	0.00	-0.25	-0.32
1Y	8.9250	0.05	-0.20	-0.27
2Y	9.6250	0.03	-0.07	-0.25
3Y	10.0250	-0.03	-0.07	-0.14
4Y	10.1500	0.00	-0.30	-0.48
5Y	10.4000	-0.05	-0.17	-0.34
7Y	10.5000	-0.07	-0.50	-0.75
10Y	11.2000	0.05	-0.55	-0.60
20Y	11.6250	-0.13	-0.50	-0.63
25Y	12.3250	0.07	-0.18	-0.43

PDEx TIME AND SALES

Instrument	Volume (in million PHP)
FXTNs	2,572.9
TBILLs	50.0
RTBs	600.0
TOTAL	3,222.9

NOTE: PDEx Benchmarks are calculated from the weighted average yields of done transactions, best midrates, or best firm bid rates as the case maybe for 12 tenors at 4:00pm daily. The PDEx Benchmarks may be used to compare interest rate bases for loans, deposits and other financial instruments that have variable rates.

Stocks to rise on falling crude

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SHARE PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE buoyed this week by the drop in world oil prices and brisk buying by foreign investors, analysts said.

Oil firms have cut fuel prices during the weekend by 50 centavos a liter with the softening of world oil prices. Data from the Department of Energy showed that regional benchmark Dubai crude dropped to a November average of $52.01 a barrel from $53.96 last month.

AB Capital Securities wrote in a weekly report that stocks were expected to bounce back this week as the market neared the end of the year.

"The market has shown resilience, having retraced modestly despite the shortage of headlines. One major catalyst that has silently helped sentiments is the drop in world crude oil prices. The market is finding some comfort in the declining price of crude oil, which was earlier feared to reach $90 a barrel," AB Capital Securities said.

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	as of Nov. 10, 2005	as of Nov. 17, 2005
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	US$ 1.0487	US$ 1.0720
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0149	US$ 1.0295

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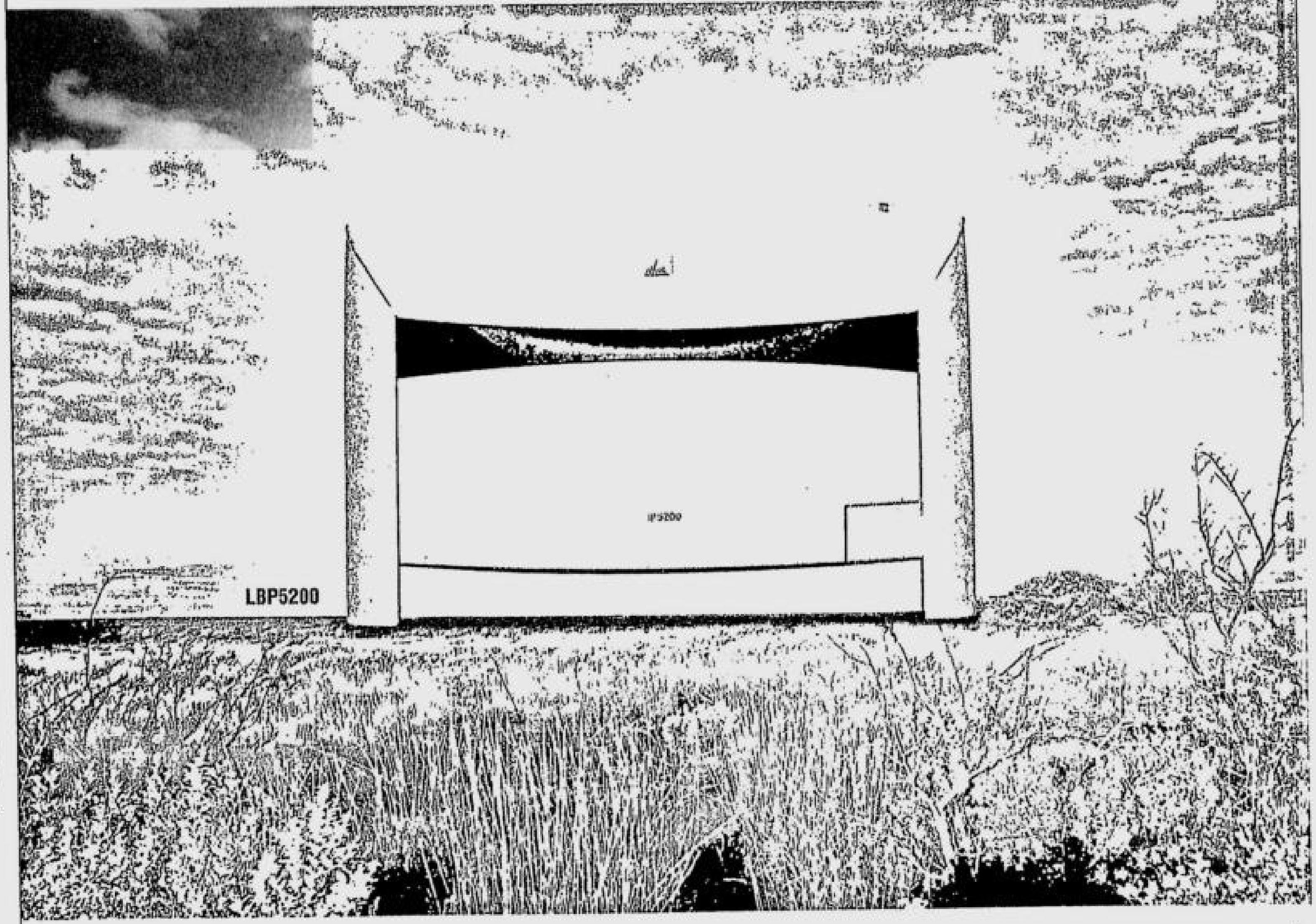

Canon covers everything you need in an office printer. From advanced technologies down to cost-saving measures, Canon's new Laser Beam Printers give you *seven reasons* why you should choose it over other brands.

① **Zero-Warm-up Time**
Canon's On-Demand Fixing Technology allows heat to be transferred instantly to the fixing element, thus, saving power and eliminating warm-up time.

② **Hi-SCoA**
Hi-SCoA, or High Smart Compression Architecture, compresses print job data into manageable size for quick data transfer from computer to printer.

③ **CAPT Technology**
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Results of ABS-CBN'S Julius Babao Charges

THE CHARGES

1) That Julius Babao paid bail to release Dawud Santos. Alleged by President Gloria Arroyo in what was initially reported as an off-the-record statement to columnist Ramon Tulfo. President Arroyo said that information came from an intelligence report by ISAFP, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Lunch between Tulfo and President Arroyo was on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005. Report was released publicly on Oct. 30.

   Separately, Rear Admiral Tirso Danga, the military's deputy chief for intelligence, told journalists on Oct. 27 that a media man paid the P200,000 bail for Dawud Santos. He said, "it was even a personality from the media who gave the bail to help this person out." In another press conference, he identified the personality as Julius Babao.

2) That Julius Babao guaranteed the bail and used his influence as a member of the press to act as a "guarantor" for Dawud Santos. Alleged by Jonathan Tiongco (identified as a legal researcher) to columnist Ramon Tulfo. Column published Nov. 5 and repeated frequently, most recently on Nov. 12, 2005.

ABS-CBN INVESTIGATION

1) Investigation team first convened on Sunday, Oct. 30. Mandate: to piece together the chain of events from March 22 to April 26, 2005, gather documents and prove or disprove the charges against Babao. Initial telephone interviews Sunday morning gave us enough evidence and first person accounts to publicly state that Julius Babao did not pay bail. We did so in attached press release #1.

2) Upon further discussion, the team felt it was important to see whether Julius violated any ethical boundaries in getting the Dawud exclusive. We felt this could be a landmark case for Filipino journalists, particularly those in television and radio, to help set the boundary between public service and intervention in a legal process.

3) We announced the ethics investigation to the public on Nov. 1 in attached press release #2. On the same day, we asked the government for any and all information to support its allegations. We sent letters to Secretary Avelino Cruz, Jr., Department of National Defense, Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Brig. Gen. Marlou Quevedo, ISAFP. In private conversations, we asked for intelligence reports and guaranteed confidentiality if needed. To date, officially, ABS-CBN has received no information from any of these institutions.

4) Julius Babao went on voluntary leave Nov. 1 until the investigation reached its conclusion.

5) We finished interviews and brought in final documents on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Initial findings presented to ABS-CBN President/COO Luis Alejandro and Chairman of the Board/CEO Eugenio Lopez III on Nov. 9. Debate on possible ethical issues in ABS-CBN News Mancom on Thursday, Nov. 10. Final report written on Friday, Nov. 11. Approved by Ethics Team on Saturday, Nov. 12.

6) In the spirit of transparency, here is a list of our investigating team:

   a. Interviews were conducted by: Reporters Ina Reformina, Alex Santos, Jay Ruiz, Aladin Bacolodan, Tony Velasquez and Supervising Producer Beth Frondoso. Follow-up interviews, intelligence and confidential sources were done by Charie Villa (Head, Newsgathering), Luchi Cruz-Valdes (Head, Current Affairs) and Maria Ressa (Head, News & Current Affairs).

   b. Documents were gathered by Ina Reformina, DJ Sta. Ana, Charie Villa and Maria Ressa.

   c. Analysis and ethical issues were first formulated by four- person team of Beth Frondoso, Charie Villa, Luchi Cruz- Valdes and Maria Ressa. Initial conclusions discussed with ABS-CBN News Mancom, bringing in Gin de Mesa (Strategies), Peter Lino (HR), Jay Santos (Finance), Peter Musñgi (ANC/Radio), and Vince Rodriguez (Studio 23).

7) Transcripts of interviews as well as copies of documents are available upon request.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1) Julius Babao said he began doing stories on the Santos brothers (Ahmed and Dawud) on April 1, 2004. He got Dawud's phone number from reporter Doland Castro earlier. Through Dawud, Babao set up an interview with Ahmed Santos (who was then tagged as the leader of the Rajah Solaiman Movement) in a hotel in Legaspi City. Shortly after that, in a separate location, Ahmed Santos also granted an interview to Jiggy Manicad, GMA7. According to Babao, the PNP and AFP were conducting a manhunt for the two brothers at that time.

2) On March 22, 2005, Babao received a text message from Dawud Santos, who was alarmed because he saw his picture on a PNP wanted poster of Jemaah Islamiyah members. Babao asked Dawud for an interview, which he granted immediately. Shortly after Babao arrived at Dawud's house, a GMA7 truck arrived. Dawud had also called Jiggy Manicad so Babao tried to protect his exclusive by taking Dawud in the ABS-CBN crewcab to the station, where the interview was done.

3) A few hours later, before TV Patrol World began its broadcast, Babao received a call from Nurain, one of Dawud's wives. She told Babao that Dawud had been arrested shortly after he returned from his interview with ABS-CBN. Nurain did not know where her husband had been taken and was afraid for his safety.

4) Babao said he felt some responsibility because the interview may have led to Dawud's arrest. He decided to pursue the story. The next day, Gen. Avelino Razon was a guest on ABS-CBN morning show Magandang Umaga Bayan. Babao asked him about Dawud's arrest. Razon denied knowing anything about it.

5) Shortly after, Babao said he received a phone call from Jonathan Tiongco, a contact from an earlier, unrelated story. Later in August, Tiongco was introduced to the public as an audio expert by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor. Tiongco claimed the "Hello Garci" tapes which allege election fraud against President Arroyo are fake.

6) Babao said Tiongco offered to help Dawud and his family. Babao gave Tiongco's telephone number to Nurain, who accepted Tiongco's offer.

7) Babao's account was corroborated by Jonathan Tiongco in a telephone interview with Luchi Cruz Valdes on Sunday, Oct. 30. Tiongco said he called Babao and offered to help Dawud. Tiongco added Babao had nothing to do with the bail process. The interview was done on speakerphone and witnessed by Beth Frondoso, Charie Villa and Maria Ressa.

8) In a videotaped interview on Nov. 1, Tiongco denied Babao paid bail. Tiongco said, "Julius never gave any money. He never gave any money. All he did was he just called Dawud for updates on the case. He called Dawud's wife. He called me. He was just asking for updates."

9) On Nov. 2, ISAFP, represented by Rear Admiral Tirso Danga (Deputy Chief for Intelligence), Maj. Serme Ayuyao (Staff Judge Advocate, AFP) and Lt. Commander Teddy Quinzon (Military Intelligence Group), gave a press conference to clarify its position. ISAFP admitted it had no concrete evidence against Babao.

   a. Transcript from Nov. 2:

      i. Adm. Danga: "We are not saying that Julius Babao categorically posted the bail. But we will cite here facts regarding the circumstances by which his name was implicated."

10) ISAFP cited two instances of what the officers called "circumstantial" evidence: 1) Babao's appearance in court hearings; and 2) after posting bail, Dawud was picked up by an ABS-CBN van.

11) The courtroom allegation first surfaced publicly on Nov. 2 in an Inquirer article quoting an intelligence official who said the lawyer of Dawud Santos - "Nicomedes Martelino agreed to post bail of P200,000 after speaking with Babao during a brief recess in a court hearing on April 18 or 19" – implying Babao offered to pay. These allegations were repeated later that day in the ISAFP press conference with Rear Adm. Danga, Maj. Ayuyao and Lt. Comm. Teddy Quinzon.

   a. Transcript of Nov. 2 press conference:

      i. Maj. Ayuyao: "In two hearings, I noticed the presence of Mr. Julius Babao in whispering distance right at the back of Dawud Santos Ö the lawyer of Dawud Santos manifested and orally moved for the reduction and bail of Dawud Santos– stating among others that he was jobless and therefore, he cannot produce the recommended bail. So a 5 minute recess or break was asked and granted by the Honorable Judge. And when it was resumed, the lawyer of Dawud Santos readily moved that and manifested they can already post the required two hundred thousand bail. We were surprised by the manifestation of the lawyer contrary to his earlier manifestation that Dawud Santos has no money at all to provide such bail."

      ii. Gen. Danga: "And besides on that time, there was no telephone call made."

      iii Maj. Ayuyao: "And during the recess, I've noticed there was not even a single call or even telephone calls going outside. So it was suspected, and I believe, the money came from someone who is inside the courtroom. I'm not categorically implicating that it was Julius Babao. What I'm trying to say that is the circumstantial fact – what really transpired during the hearing."

12) Both Babao and Martelino say this never happened. Both say they have never met each other in person. Babao said he attended only one Habeas Corpus hearing on March 30, and the lawyer present was Homobono Adaza, not Nicomedes Martelino. This was verified by Adaza and can be clearly seen in videotapes taken of that hearing. Babao said he sat close to Dawud because he asked questions for his report in between proceedings.

13) According to a videotaped interview of Nicomedes Martelino on Nov. 6, Martelino said, "according to the ISAFP report, there was a bail hearing for the bond of my client, Dawud Santos, wherein I was present – and wherein I manifested that my client cannot afford to pay, to post the bond of P200,000. And after a brief recess and a talk allegedly wherein I was present with Mr. Babao and Mr. Dawud, I immediately made a hundred-eighty degree turnaround and said, 'my client is posting bail.' And they're saying that it is Mr. Babao who provided the money. This incident is fictitious. This never happened. I have never met Mr. Babao personally."

14) In another television appearance, ISAFP claimed it was upset with Babao because ABS-CBN failed to get its side of the story. Babao was assigned to get Dawud while his counterpart, Jay Ruiz, was assigned to ISAFP. On the same day that Babao's exclusive on Dawud aired, it was followed by another exclusive by Jay Ruiz with the ISAFP agent assigned to Dawud's case. In that report, the intel agent lamented the lack of an anti-terror law.

15) The second "circumstantial evidence" from ISAFP against Babao concerned the use of the ABS-CBN "van" after Dawud posted bail.

   a. Transcript from Nov. 2 press conference:

      i. Lt. Quinzon: "Dawud Santos was immediately whisked out of this hall and was put into an ABS-CBN van, and he left this area. In fact, there were some grumblings from some members of the media complaining why they were not able to interview Dawud Santos after the release and why Dawud Santos was immediately whisked into an ABS-CBN van."

      ii. Gen. Danga: "Nabalitaan ko nga na nagalit kayo noon dahil hindi ninyo man lang na-interview si Dawud. Agad tumuloy siya dun sa van ng ABS-CBN."

16) Again, Babao did not attend any other hearings. He was not present when Dawud was released on April 26. Another ABS-CBN employee was waiting for Dawud, and he asked him if Dawud could give another exclusive interview to Julius Babao. Dawud agreed and rode in the ABS-CBN crewcab to meet Babao.

17) On Nov. 5, Dawud Santos verified Babao's account in an interview with Vice President Noli de Castro over DZMM. Dawud said, "Sa pagpyansa, alam po nila, nagpalimos po talaga yung mga misis ko po. Naglibot po silaÖ So kami po yung nagproduce non. Sila po, yung mga misis ko yung nagproduce non, nag-collect, namalimos po, at yung tulong po sa akin ni Sir Julius, yung po na lang po sa ma-interview niya, maipalabas ko rin po yung, upang maipahayag yung side ko." (Dawud Santos has three wives).

18) On Nov. 5, columnist Ramon Tulfo quoted Jonathan Tiongco saying "Babao used his influence and reputation to act as guarantor for Dawud's bail bond." That charge would be repeated several times in later columns.

19) Dawud's lawyer, Nicomedes Martelino, said, "As far as I know, which is hearsay pa rin kasi sinabi lang sa akin ni Mr Tiongco is that Mr. Babao called the Surety Company." In fact, all the allegations against Babao in terms of guaranteeing bail were traced to Jonathan Tiongco.

20) On Oct. 31, Tiongco seemed to threaten ABS-CBN via text message: "Pag di niyo ako i-clear mamaya at bukas umaga, I will present bondswoman sa ISAFP mismo Julius called her 3x to nego reduce Dawud bail."

Internal Investigation on by Malacañang and ISAFP

1) Babao denies Tiongco's charges. He says Tiongco arranged bail and that was corroborated by Dawud's lawyer, Nicomedes Martelino, who said Tiongco did the legwork. Martelino said, "Usually, it's the lawyer, but the lawyer will not go to the insurance company. You ask somebody din naman. Kaya nga may liaison, di ba? Well, I asked Mr. Tiongco to help so siya ang nagpunta."

2) Babao said Tiongco called him while Tiongco was arranging the papers and passed the phone to a woman. Babao said he felt awkward but didn't know what to do. He asked, "Magkano ho ba yung bail ni Dawud Santos?" She told him it was P200,000. Babao asked why the amount was so large. According to Babao, she answered, "Hindi po. Kasi itong mga Muslim mahirap kausap. Pag sinagot na naming yung piyansa hindi na nagpapakita itong mga ito. Nagtatago na." Babao then asked the woman to return the phone to Tiongco and told him what was said. Tiongco said, "Ganun ba? Sige, ako na lang bahala dito."

3) According to a Nov. 8 videotaped interview with Atty. Manuel Go, Summit's legal counsel, Babao could not have influenced the bonds agent through a phone call as Tiongco claims. Go said, "Definitely, hindi kami nagpapadala sa ganon, kahit sino pang tumawag. Kung talagang 'flight risk,' hindi namingÖ ide-deny namin yun. Go added the bonds agent will not risk losing her job by accepting a flight risk client. He said, "Kung ang kaso ng isang akusado ay bailable case, at kumpleto naman ang mga dokumento, iga-grant ng mga agency yun. Kahit sino ang tumawag, kung talagang hindi puwede ang kaso, palagay ko hindi gagawin ng isang ahente dahil malilintikan siya. Siyempre ang ahente, hindi naman niya isasakripisyo ang kanyang hanap-buhay sa isang kaso lamang."

4) We corroborated Go's statement with ABS-CBN's legal counsel to get a clearer idea of the process. Once a court grants bail and the documents are available, it is more a matter of paperwork for any bail bond company to accept the case, particularly in a bailable case like illegal possession of firearms. If the paperwork is in order from the court, it is almost a given that agencies will accept the case. All they have to determine is the amount the accused will pay. If they deem him/her low risk, the premium to be paid will be lower and will increase with the perceived level of risk.

5) We attempted to find the woman Babao spoke with. It was hard to track her down because Summit had no record of her identity: she didn't sign the bail bond documents. Summit says there are hundreds of agents and some of them are hired only temporarily. Go said they will continue the search. Still, the signature of approval on official documents for Summit Guaranty & Insurance Company is its Underwriting Manager, Jonathan Valzado, who has had no contact with Babao.

6) Babao said he "did not in any way consent to guarantee nor even endorse Dawud's bond at that time or any time since then." Neither did he negotiate to bring down the premium for the bond.

7) The evidence is definitive and clear regarding the guarantors of the bond. Summit Guaranty and Insurance Company documents released to ABS-CBN show two guarantors and their signatures: Domeng Villeta and Jonathan Tiongco.

8) Summit says that if Dawud jumped bail, the two who signed would be held liable. These documents show Babao had nothing to do with guaranteeing Dawud's bail. As a side note: ABS-CBN was the first group to request these documents from Summit. As of Nov. 8, only the NBI requested copies of the documents so critical to the charge ISAFP made against Babao.

FINDINGS

We find the evidence shows there is absolutely no truth to the charges against Babao: he neither posted nor guaranteed bail for Dawud Santos.

In addition, we find it extremely alarming that ISAFP, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, could even say it had "circumstantial evidence" when the facts it presented publicly were so blatantly wrong.

What appeared clear, however, was the large role played by Jonathan Tiongco. It leads to the next logical question of why? Who is Jonathan Tiongco and what interests could he have in Dawud Santos? Is he working for anyone? And what motivated Tiongco to change his story a few days after he cleared Babao to ABS-CBN Management?

A cursory investigation of Tiongco paints a picture of a well-connected, shadowy figure involved in intimidation, alleged extortion and intelligence gathering. According to Party List Representative Mujiv Hataman, Tiongco introduced himself as "a representative of Jinggoy Estrada."

When we asked Sen. Estrada about Tiongco on Oct. 31, Sen. Estrada said,"Hindi kailanman naging konektado si Jonathan Tiongco sa aking tanggapan. Madalas lang magpunta yan dati sa aking opisina para manghingi ng pera kapalit daw ng paninirang gagawin niya kay DILG Sec. Angelo Reyes. Pero hindi ko pinag-aksayahan ng panahon ang extortionist na yan dahil naniniwala akong flip siya."

Tiongco denies the statements of Hataman and Estrada. Soon after that conversation, Tiongco changed his position on Babao's involvement and began to try to intimidate ABS-CBN news personnel through text messages. That was around the time, we believe, that he began making allegations against Babao to columnist Ramon Tulfo.

Tiongco has also gone after other media organizations. On Nov. 4, a public holiday, a TRO was served to PCIJ, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, blocking its blog article on Jonathan Tiongco. According to PCIJ's Sheila Coronel, it is the first time a TRO has been issued on a blog and was done so despite an earlier, similar Supreme Court decision against it.

In the PCIJ blog article, anti-crime advocate Teresita Ang See said Tiongco approached her with photographs showing the alleged involvement of DILG Sec. Angelo Reyes in kidnapping and robbery cases. Ang See had the photographs independently verified and found they were doctored. She refused to help Tiongco, who then began sending her threats through text messages.

According to a Philippine National Police dossier, Jonathan Tiongco had 11 criminal cases against him as of 2003. The cases include murder and frustrated murder, homicide, illegal possession of firearms, carnapping, grave threat and estafa.

ETHICAL ISSUES AS A JOURNALIST

The core issue is whether Babao crossed the line between reporting on Dawud's story and becoming an active participant in the story by intervening in a legal process. Although Dawud was only charged with illegal possession of firearms, it was known that Dawud and his brother Ahmed Santos are suspected terrorists.

We focused on three key points:

1) How Jonathan Tiongco got involved.
2) Julius Babao's conversation with a woman we assume to be a bail bonds agent for Summit Guaranty & Insurance Company.
3) The use of ABS-CBN vehicles to transport Dawud to exclusive interviews with Babao.

I. How Tiongco Got Involved

This is the first defining moment. Did Tiongco call Babao and offer to help or did Babao call Tiongco to ask him to help Dawud? In our judgment, if Babao asked Tiongco to help Dawud, Babao would've crossed the line ethically.

In conversations with Babao, Tiongco, Dawud and his family, all said Tiongco called Babao and offered his help to the family.

II. Babao's Telephone Conversation

If Babao had called the Judge to try to convince him of Dawud's innocence or to try to influence whether bail would be set and its sum, Babao would've crossed the line. That did not happen.

Babao freely admitted that he had a conversation with a woman he didn't know, whose name he was never given, on a telephone call he didn't make but which he received.

The conversation was short. He asked two questions and claimed he didn't try to influence the woman in any way. We could not establish intent to influence and the documents show others acted as guarantors.

We feel although Babao may have been too trusting of Jonathan Tiongco, there is no proof Babao violated any ethical boundaries.

III.The Use of ABS-CBN Vehicles to Transport Dawud to One-on-One Interviews

It is common media practice to take exclusive interviewees in company vehicles to locations where the interview can be conducted in relative peace, particularly if other journalists are after the same interviewee.

In both instances, other journalists were pursuing Dawud. On March 22, GMA7 was outside his house and Babao got the exclusive only because he arrived there first. To protect his exclusive, he transported Dawud to a location where they could conduct the interview privately.

On April 26, many journalists were waiting for Dawud, and part of the reason ABS-CBN got the exclusive was because the representative we sent could identify Dawud from his earlier interview. He was able to go to Dawud earlier and make arrangements for Dawud to meet the ABS-CBN crewcab outside. Dawud was a free man, and chose to give his first interview after posting bail to ABS-CBN.

In both instances, Babao got a "scoop."

For perspective, international news agencies and media companies routinely send company cars to pick up their Interviewees from their homes to transport them to the studio for one-on-one interviews. The thinking here is that people are giving up their time to speak with media.

IV. Conclusion on Ethical Issues

After examining potential ethical issues and comparing them to the highest standards of journalism globally, we find Julius Babao did not violate any ethical boundaries. We commend him for voluntarily removing himself from his public duties while the charges against him were investigated. He returns as an anchor on Monday, Nov. 14.

ANALYSIS

The question now is why would President Arroyo make this charge with such certainty and why does she continue to repeat it?

In confidential statements made by intelligence and Palace insiders, it seems several forces converge to cloud the issue.

First, on the intelligence front: agents admitted to ABS-CBN that they had little evidence to support the charge that Babao posted bail. They said they never expected their "raw intelligence" to be revealed publicly. They also tell ABS-CBN, however, that Rear Admiral Danga continues to stand by the charge when he speaks with the President. According to members of the intelligence community, there could be several reasons behind this:

- He truly believes what he is saying.
- He is afraid to admit he was wrong.
- He is angling for a possible promotion.

Complicating matters further, there is active disinformation circulating that could further damage relations between President Arroyo and ABS-CBN. According to Palace insiders, President Arroyo has been led to believe the bail bond was actually paid by ABS-CBN Chairman/CEO Eugenio Lopez III. The information allegedly came to the Palace through a text message allegedly sent by a former ABS-CBN employee who was offered a special separation package last June. When contacted by ABS-CBN Management, this former employee denied having sent such a message.

CONCLUSION

In this highly charged political environment, this case is unique because the false charges were made by a sitting President, and that could send a chilling effect to all working journalists today.

On the other hand, it also served as a catalyst for public discussion and debate on media ethics, something we've long needed in our industry. ABS-CBN hopes the discussions continue and vows to do its part in defining and maintaining those standards, working hand-in-hand with other media organizations.

ABS-CBN values its reputation and that of its employees. That is why we embarked on this exercise of accountability and hope ISAFP and Malacanang will do the same.

Incidents like this only tarnish the reputations of all institutions involved and highlights the demand for greater accountability. It partly explains why our nation is undergoing a crisis of confidence and faith.

Mobile TV and reality

(To read this story in its entirety, go to the Infotech section of www. inq7.net)

LIVE mobile TV trials were conducted in Sydney using a Nokia N92

By Leo Magno

(First of two parts)

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—YOU'RE IN A CAR stuck in traffic, you whip out your Nokia N92 and switch on the phone's mobile TV function. You are then connected to Smart Communication's authentication and billing interface to choose a channel you wish to view and pay for. Then with high-quality stereo sound and a sharp 2.8-inch display in all its 16 million glorious colors, Mike Enriquez delivers the news in his patented style.

Is this what's in store for Philippine mobile services in 2006? Not likely. But then again, I would love to be proven wrong on this point.

In a test trial covering 80 percent of Sydney and about 3.2 million people, telecom equipment and device manufacturer Nokia, telecom operator Telstra and Bridge Networks, a wholly owned subsidiary of Broadcast Australia, showed live television on 16 channels. From Broadcast Australia's Gore Hill transmission site in Sydney, UHF channels here were broadcast not to television sets but to Nokia N92 mobile phones.

Mobile TV has not just arrived. It has started the party jumping.

Trials with Nokia such as the one held here are not new. In June, 500 test users accessed Channel Four Finland, MTV and Elisa in Helsinki using a Nokia 7710 and the services of operator TeliaSonera. The Sydney trial started July 19. In August, Malaysia's Maxis Communications and cross-media operator Astro conducted tests featuring four live channels. In September, operator O2 started trials with 400 people in Oxford, England in partnership with broadcaster Arqiva featuring BBC, Cartoon Network and Sky News. In October, four channels were broadcast by Hong Kong conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa. In Italy, Telecom Italia Mobile and Mediaset have already finished its testing period and have announced that it would offer the service commercially in 2006.

Not only Nokia is doing this. In May, South Korean broadcaster TU Media, 30-percent owned by operator SK Telecom, aired mobile TV via satellite. In Berlin, Siemens started mobile TV test trials in September using its own DVB-H server platform and a handset prototype capable of receiving these services. In Prague, T-Mobile started conducting test pilots using not only mobile phones but also personal digital assistants. In the United States, Verizon is conducting mobile TV trials using a network built and operated by Crown Castle.

Around 40 trials of DVB-H have taken or are taking place around the world. Transmissions are made directly from specialized television masts rather than cell sites used for mobile telephony.

What is DVB-H?

DVB-H stands for Digital Video Broadcasting-Handheld, a standard adopted by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute for mobile broadcasting technology.

Mobile TV broadcasting allows users to watch TV shows on their mobile device. The service works by receiving a specialized digital TV broadcast signal from the air in much the same way as televisions do. It is not the same as a streaming video service over 3G or GPRS, but one which is optimized for long periods of TV viewing by large numbers of simultaneous users with high picture quality and low battery consumption.

Richard Sharp, vice president of rich media at Nokia, said up to 11 megabits of broadcast can be sent per second over the 8MHz channel, translating to about 50 channels of content.

In other words, DVB-H does not ride on 3G, GPRS or any other high-speed cellular radio signal currently being used. DVB-H is independent of the existing carrier signal since the mobile TV devices have their own antennas for mobile TV reception and another antenna for the cellular service.

This is where things get complicated.

Cellular vs broadcast industries

A mobile TV phone can receive broadcast signals on its own, completely bypassing the operator. This obviously will not sit well with telecom operators.

"Technically, yes, mobile TV broadcasts can be done without the traditional operator," said Sharp. "But commercially this is not likely to happen."

Sharp explained that since the broadcast is one-way, some form of interactivity is needed for user verification, authentication and billing. This is where the operator comes in and where the complex licensing problems and revenue sharing begin.

The setup of a mobile TV service can come in many forms, explained Mauro Montanaro, vice president for Nokia multimedia in the Asia Pacific region. It could be initiated by the operator which installs the necessary equipment, or the content provider or broadcast station can set up their own. Another model is for a third-party systems integrator to set up the infrastructure and acquire the content licenses and then partner with an operator.

So how do the operators, third-party providers and broadcast stations share the pie?

"We cannot disclose the exact details," Montanaro said when asked about how Malaysia and Italy—which have announced that they would offer DVB-H broadcasts next year—will go about revenue sharing. "The economics of mobile TV may vary from country to country and it's opening up new business rules and strategies."

Indeed, new problems and opportunities are arising with mobile TV. The two lucrative industries of broadcast and cellular are not only converging—they are also colliding. Since digital mobile TV signals can be tracked to the point where operators and broadcasters know exactly which program is being viewed where and when, the inevitable questions arise: "Whose customer is watching? Is it the operator's (as a cellular phone subscriber) or the broadcaster's (as a TV viewer)? Are they your customers or mine?"

Consider also that the authentication for billing mobile TV services is done by tracing the subscriber's SIM card or IMEI number, which is traditionally a function of the operator. The IMEI is the International Mobile Equipment Identity, a unique number given to every single mobile phone, typically found behind the battery.

The fact is that as more data is mined from customers, companies have to make use of that data to improve service and find new ways of monetizing that knowledge about the customer. As more industries converge, customer ownership increasingly becomes a treasured asset that companies would want to keep jealously close to their hearts and not share with anyone else.

It would be naïve to believe, for example, that Nokia's DVB-H tests around the world are purely technical in nature. They are of course also testing the market. And what did they discover?

Test market reaction

Sharp said data gathered from the Helsinki trials indicate that 41 percent of the 500 pilot testers said they would buy future mobile TV devices and that 58 percent said they were "interested." More important, 50 percent added that they found 10 euros per month an "acceptable" price for such a service.

In Malaysia, he said, 65 percent of the pilot testers liked the service while 90 percent were willing to pay for such a service.

But the price will depend on the market, said Sharp. Nokia expects a monthly fee of $10 US per month to be widely accepted.

Which is why Malaysia and Italy are forging ahead and are offering the service commercially in 2006. However, Malaysia has an authoritarian control of media and communications, and the family of Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi controls Mediaset, the broadcasting company which will offer mobile TV service next year.

This highlights another important aspect and prerequisite of mobile TV broadcasts: state regulations. The economic aspect of it may have been solved by Malaysia and Italy, but we should consider that decisive state actions regarding broadcast and telecoms may have been made to allow mobile TV to become a reality in these two countries.

State regulations

Solving the commercial aspect of the mobile TV problem is not enough. Getting a government go-ahead is also important, as conceded by Montanaro.

"The licensing problem is not on the cellular side, it's getting the license to broadcast," he said. "Questions also arise whether mobile TV should be considered a telecom or a broadcasting service. The regulatory frameworks differ from country to country, and in some areas anti-trust laws are brought up."

(To be continued next week)

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PHILCOPY-DAGUPAN:
Tel No. + 63 75 523-1304

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3062 Series of 2005

Delayed P18.6-B refund to Meralco clients starts

MAKE WAY FOR THE VAPORIZER Glen Castillo, displays his "hydro-fuel vaporizer," which reportedly increases gasoline mileage of vehicles at an exhibition of inventions in Manila. The vaporizer is one of the many items displayed at the exhibition. AFP

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER MONTHS OF WAITING, CUSTOMERS covered by the fourth and last phase of the Manila Electric Co.'s P30-billion refund scheme would soon be able to avail themselves of their rebates, beginning with those having active, non-government accounts.

Meralco vice president and refund management task force head Leonardo Mabale told the INQUIRER that the distribution utility had already sent out letters outlining the requirements for availing of the refund to its first batch of clients.

Some customers which had received their letters and completed all the documentary requirements had already started submitting them to various Meralco branches nationwide, he added.

Since the amounts due to customers under the entire Phase 4 are significantly larger than those paid out under the first three phases, he said it is important that refund claimants have all the proper documents in place to prevent refunds to the wrong entities.

Meralco will pay out P18.6 billion worth of rebates for the entire refund phase.

The first tranche of the refund scheme's Phase 4—or Phase 4a—includes small commercial and industrial customers, as well as operators of flat streetlights, including government hospitals and metered streetlights with contracted demand lower than 40 kilowatts.

An Energy Regulatory Commission order issued in July, however, also placed all government accounts under this tranche, jacking up refund outlays to P3.3 billion from P2.2 billion.

Despite this, Mabale said Meralco had not yet started issuing refund letters to its government customers as the Bureau of Internal Revenue has yet to give the distribution utility the list of accounts entitled to rebates.

"The list of government accounts is still with the BIR for verification. We will write government accounts as soon as the BIR gives us the list back," he explained.

GSIS should stay out of CTPL business

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

GSIS WANTS TO MONOPOLIZE the CTPL (Compulsory Third Party Liability) business and completely crowd out the entire private insurance industry. Have you heard of anything more preposterous?

In an Aug. 26 letter to Secretary Leandro Mendoza of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), GSIS senior vice president Josefina Valera offered to cover all vehicles nationwide against CTPL insurance. The offer is based on Presidential Decree No. 245 issued in 1973, empowering GSIS to issue practically any kind of insurance.

There are three reasons why the GSIS offer should be shot down before it gets off the ground.

First, we are no longer under martial law. Free enterprise, trade liberalization and globalization, particularly in insurance, are the rules of the day. Creating a monopoly is always bad for the consumer. A monopoly always leads to high prices and shoddy service.

Second, Mendoza does not have the authority to require all vehicle owners nationwide to buy their CTPL insurance only from GSIS. The CTPL law is in the insurance code, and only in the insurance code. The insurance commission is the only government agency empowered to implement the code.

By law, the insurance commission furnishes the LTO with a list of insurance companies authorized to issue CTPL insurance or certificate of cover (COC). When the owner registers his vehicle, he presents his COC. The job of the LTO is merely to check that the insurance company is in the list.

Instead, the LTO checks that the insurance company is "accredited" by LTO. In effect, LTO infringes on the powers of the insurance commission.

The LTO, and even the DOTC, does not have the authority to "accredit" any insurance company, including GSIS. The rules at the LTO requiring an insurance company to qualify for accreditation before its COC's can be accepted are a bastardization of the insurance code.

The license or certificate of authority (CA) issued by the insurance commission to an insurance company should be acceptable as such to any government agency, particularly the LTO.

Third, and this is the most important reason, the GSIS plan that it be authorized solely to issue COC's to all vehicles nationwide is a blatant infringement on the vehicle owner's basic and fundamental right to enter into contracts.

Nobody, least of all the LTO and DOTC with no monetary interest in the insurance contract, should tell me where I should buy the policy on my car. It's my car and my liability. And I pay the premium with my own money. I should have the complete freedom of choice of insurer, agent or broker. Besides, who wants to insure with GSIS anyway?

The problem of fake COCs, which, by the way, is grossly exaggerated, can be solved without converting GSIS into a monstrous monopoly or infringing on a citizen's basic and fundamental rights. We should not solve a problem by creating an even bigger problem.

That's three strikes on GSIS. GSIS is out.

Commercial demand boosts coco industry

By Christine A. Gaylican

BRIGTHER PROSPECTS ARE ON hand for Philippine coconut producers and millers as local manufacturers expand operations and a new biodiesel plant comes onstream next year.

In fact, both the Philippine Coconut Oil Producers Association Inc. (PCOPA) and the United Coconut Association of the Philippines Inc. (Ucap) are bullish that higher local demand will boost the industry's growth in 2006.

"Leading shampoo and soap manufacturer Pilipinas Kao Corp. plans to expand their manufacturing capacity from the current 40,000 metric tons to 100,000 metric tons next year," PCOPA president Raul Ostrea told the INQUIRER. "This will be beneficial for us."

Aside from its nutritional value, coconut oil is a leading oleochemical used to manufacture bath soap, shampoo and detergents.

Another development in 2006, according to Ostrea, would be the commercial production of the first methyl esther plant of Chemrez Inc. manufacturing coconut-based bio-diesel.

In terms of coconut oil exports, the country's participation in the Early Harvest Program with China will also bode well for the country's producers because it has a geographical advantage over competitor Indonesia.

"We hope that the tariffs slapped by Chinese authorities on our exports will be reduced to zero from the current 10 percent," he added.

He noted that forthcoming higher demand will be met with the expected good coconut oil production levels aided by good weather in the third and fourth quarters of this year.

Ostrea said the coconut industry is bouncing back in the second semester having so far exported close to 1.1 million metric tons of coconut oil to the world market, and already exceeding its target of shipping 950,000 metric tons by year-end.

This is 16 percent higher compared to 2004 levels when the country shipped 952,000 metric tons of coconut oil to traditional markets like the US and European Union.

Local production

The country's coconut oil industry has been hounded by production declines since the Philippine Coconut Authority has no budget to implement the fertilization project it had planned for the next two years.

According to data from PCA, production may double to 4 million metric tons of copra—almost double from last year's output—if this fertilization program is pursued.

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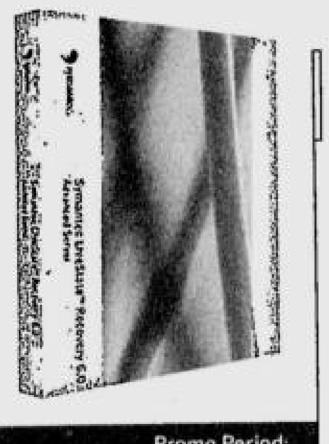

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6625 Series of 2005.

In Mindanao, job loss marks uncertainty

Rising costs of fuel, labor threaten jobs of over 26,000 factory workers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

RISING COSTS OF FUEL AND LABOR as well as aging equipment have pushed several fishing and canning firms in Mindanao to start laying off workers and reduce work days, according to a government report.

Based on the minutes of a consultative meeting between top government officials and industry players held in Zamboanga City earlier this month, most of the 15 fishing companies and 9 canning firms are finding it hard to sustain their operations.

During the meeting, which Mindanao Economic Development Council chair Jesus Dureza attended, the firms complained of weakening competitiveness due to aging facilities and equipment, and the high cost of government requirements and fees related to their trade.

The firms said factors that increase the cost of doing business include: high prices of fishing boat spare parts; too many licenses to maintain on-board radio systems; the hassle of filing separate identification papers for the Maritime Industry Authority and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; and, excessive wharf service fees.

According to the Department of Labor and Employment, there are at least 26,000 workers in the region who are engaged in the fishing and canning industries.

Of the total, 15,000 are in fishing operations, 10,000 in canning factories, and another 1,000 in tin can manufacturing.

But the DOLE said only 6,000, or less than a quarter of the total, were in danger of losing their livelihood after a number of fishing firms and canneries earlier notified the government of their plan to temporarily close shop.

During the meeting, representatives from DOLE, Marina, BFAR and the departments of energy and of agriculture, said they study the matter to address the industries' problems.

As of Nov. 10, Mega Fishing Corp., which employs 800 workers, was poised to let go of 240 workers and implement a rotational working scheme that would affect one out of five employees.

By Dec. 1, GST Fishing Enterprises will halve its labor force to 150 workers. AMR Trade and Industrial Co., with over 200 workers, may also shut down.

Other firms that are expected to close shop or lay off workers are: Zamboanga Universal Fishing Corp., DLC Fishing Corp., Merly Fishing Enterprises, Ayala Seafood Corp., Universal Canning Inc., and Permex Producers and Exporters Corp.

Tri-nation oil and gas survey in Spratly Islands completed

MABINI, BATANGAS—THE INITIAL phase of a pioneering Spratly Islands survey yielded "good data" that may show whether the area has commercial energy reserves similar to those of the Malampaya oil and gas fields, according to officials.

PNOC Exploration Corp., China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. (PetroVietnam) held a ceremony here to mark the completion of the data gathering under a Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking pact that was signed last March.

The survey was done in the part of the Spratly island group that is being contested by the Philippines, China and Vietnam.

Eduardo V. Mañalac, PNOC-EC president and chief executive, said the survey covered about 143,000 square kilometers that yielded some 11,000 kilometer-lines of two-dimensional images.

M/V Nan Hai 502, a vessel owned by CNOOC subsidiary China Oilfield Services Ltd., criss-crossed the survey area starting in early September with paths that were, on the average, five nautical miles apart.

The vessel docked here for scheduled refueling and maintenance repairs before sailing out of the country.

"We [collected] good data which means the images are of [relatively fine quality]," Mañalac said. "The next step would be to process the data, which we agreed to do in Hanoi, Vietnam."

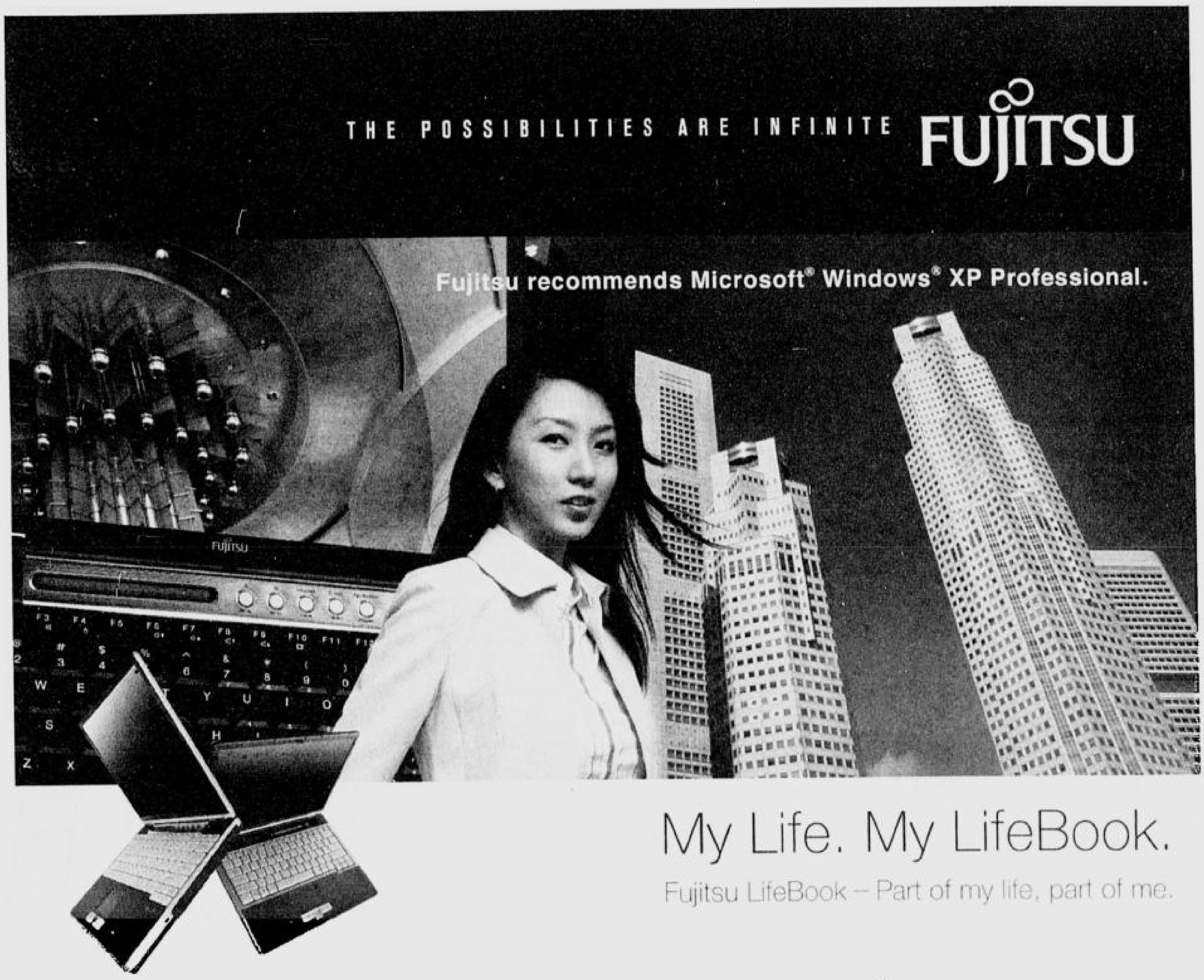
The PNOC-EC chief said processing the data would take until January or early February.

The data would then be sent to Manila for interpretation that would take three to four months.

"We would have the results by the middle of 2006, just a little over a year after we signed this landmark cooperation agreement," he said.

Mañalac said the area that was surveyed was as attractive as the Camago-Malampaya area at the pre-exploration stage. Subsequent drillings and development proved that Malampaya could yield about 2.7 trillion cubic meters of gas and 85 million barrels of crude oil.

The main difference, however, is that the Spratlys fields are in deeper waters, between 200 meters and 3 kilometers, and are farther offshore. *Ronnel W. Domingo*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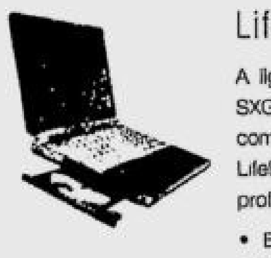

ATR-Kim Eng tapped as MMC adviser

By Clarissa S. Batino

MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER HAS ASKED ATR Kim-Eng for advice on how to ease its debt load and raise new equity to improve cash flow and finance a new hospital building, its top official said.

MMC president Gabino Mendoza said in an interview that the financial group would present its recommendations to the MMC board by the end of the month.

"They can recommend anything including a public listing," said Mendoza." But the priority is to restructure debts and to get new equity."

ATR Kim-Eng, he said, had also been talking with the hospital's creditors on how to restructure the debts.

The ailing hospital wanted the banks to extend the maturity of about P1.2 billion in debts to about 10 years from the current six years.

It has P350 million in obligations to the Development Bank of the Philippines and also has loans with Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., the Land Bank of the Philippines, Insular Savings and the Social Security System.

The hospital has another P400 million in non-bank obligations.

Banks normally require borrowers to maintain a one-to-one relationship between current assets to current liabilities.

But due to financial difficulties, the hospital has P4 in liabilities for every peso of hospital assets.

"We have stopped hemorrhaging in some places, but we have not completely stopped the bleeding," said Mendoza.

Mendoza also said at least seven investors have offered to put in money into the hospital, including its chair Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Once the country's premier hospital, MMC sustained P300 million in losses from 2002 to 2004.

About a third of the hospital is controlled by the Fores and Araneta families, while a fourth is held by the heirs of other founders.

Globe sees reason for optimism

GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE BOTTOM-LINE has given way to rosy prospects as Globe Telecom Inc. notes the calming effect the passage of the expanded value-added tax has on the economy.

Gerardo Ablaza, Globe president, said that investors have become bullish on the Philippines as economic indicators improve.

"There is ground for optimism now," he said. "The exchange rate has improved and interest rates are holding."

In April, Ablaza said higher taxes and rising inflation could force consumers to spend less on telco services.

But as of Friday, strong dollar remittance brought the peso at 54.59 to a dollar. Telcos, which have huge dollar debts, can expect to save up on interest payments every time the peso improves against the greenback.

Steady and relatively modest interest rates are making it attractive for companies like Globe to borrow in pesos.

Corporations were reporting higher earnings, according to Ablaza. Fuel costs, which have been driving up prices of all products, have also been easing. Prices of petroleum products have dropped four times in less than two weeks.

"The implementation of the VAT is key as it tackles the single biggest concern of investors, which is the deficit," Ablaza said.

Still, telcos are wary that consumers now have less money to spend because of increased prices.

Manuel Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. had said that the "halcyon days of double-digit growth" for telcos, especially PLDT unit Smart Communications Inc., were over. *Clarissa S. Batino*

No free lunch

From page B4

stable politics are driving the directional path of the stock market, as most contemporary analysts would have you believe? Think again. Market movements in Jordan and France belie this, Benson Te asserts. The recent hotel bombings that left 58 dead in Jordan hasn't taken the steam out of petrodollar flows into that country. Their stock market chart actually shows continued upward movement. And look at France, where violent unrest has been raging for weeks, and has left more than 5,000 cars burned and prompted the declaration of a state of emergency and a ban on public meetings. And yet that country's stock market index was up 0.84 percent last week, following the previous week's sizzling 3.98-percent rebound!

What all this is telling us is that we, and in particular Malacañang, should stop reading too much into the positive market movements of late. That is all driven by fickle hot money that can just as easily leave us overnight, and in the case of the currency market, by the usual Christmas season surge in OFW remittances.

Enough of the unwarranted gloating, please.

Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
2005-033

SUBJECT : **LIFTING THE MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION/PETITIONS FOR NEW CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE (CPCs) FOR TOURIST CHARTERED SERVICES (FOR BRAND-NEW & AIRCONDITIONED BUSES, MINI-BUSES AND PUJs ONLY**

The Board has issued Memorandum Circular 2003-028, effective 04 December 2003 suspending the acceptance of applications/petitions for the issuance of new Certificates of Public Convenience (CPCs). Said moratorium was issued in order to conduct public land transport studies and design programmatic approaches to rationalize land transport services, nationwide.

Among the approaches considered was the Voluntary Conversion of Tourist Chartered Service franchises, which was implemented under Memorandum Circular 2005-015 and supplemented under Memorandum Circular 2005-020. Per item No. 5 of MC 2005-015, the number of tourist bus units vacated by the conversion program shall be opened for new application to qualified applicants, subject to favorable endorsement of the Department of Tourism. As such, there were one hundred ninety six (196) units availed by seven (7) Tourist Bus operators.

In view of the above, the Board hereby declares the lifting of moratorium on the acceptance of applications/petitions for new franchises of Tourist Chartered Services ***(brand-new and air-conditioned buses, A/C mini buses and 25-seater, coaster-type A/C PUJs only)*** to cover the one hundred ninety six (196) converted units or an aggregate total of **7,840 seating capacity**, on a ***"First Come, First Served"*** basis and subject to standard LTFRB evaluation process.

This Memorandum Circular superseded any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect (15) days following the filing of three (3) copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 009 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines Sept. 29, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-036

SUBJECT : **CLARIFICATORY MEMORANDUM**

In connection with Memorandum Circular 2005-009, Re: Acceptance of Petitions / Applications for Extension of Validity of Expired Certificates of Public Convenience from 01 January 2004 up to 31 March 2005, and Memorandum Circular 2005-018, Re: Extension of Late Filing of Expired CPC, this Board clarifies that the penalty imposed in item no. 4 par. b of Memorandum Circular 2005-035, Re: EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF EXPIRED FRANCHISE WITH MODIFICATIONS, should be hereunder written and not as specified in the said memorandum:

"b.) TAXI/MEGA TAXI services

- Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 7,500) per unit"

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. Oct. 24, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-037

SUBJECT : **ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS FOR NEW CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE (CPCs) FOR COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) AIR-CONDITIONED AND NON-AIRCONDITIONED PUBLIC UTILITY BUSES (PUBs) AND PROMULGATING ITS OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

Pursuant to Department Order 2005-010 "Policy Guidelines on the Exercise of Authority and Functions by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, "the LTFRB can now amend or modify, in part or in its entirety, existing Department Order(s) previously issued by DOTC governing the powers and functions of LTFRB. As such, Department Order 2004-34 "An Order Promoting the Operation of CNG Buses in the Country," is hereby modified to initiate the acceptance and processing of Applications for New Certificates of Public Convenience (CPCs) for CNG-fed Air-Conditioned and Non-airconditioned PUBs. The following operational guidelines shall be adopted under the Government's **Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT):**

1. ***Issuance of Franchise.*** DOE accreditation is a requirement for LTFRB issuance of franchises to applicant Bus Companies. Applications for CPCs shall be accepted upon filing with the LTFRB Technical Evaluation Division (TED) Pro-forma Invoice (PFI) may be accepted as a basis for RMC certification. However, CNG PUB units shall be presented to the TED for inspection prior to LTFRB release of Decision. Applicants are required to acquire and physically present the number of CNG PUB units reflected under the PFI not later than 31 December 2005.
2. ***Franchise Period.*** All brand new CNG-fed PUBs shall be granted a franchise for ten (10) years. However, applications for Sale and Transfer shall not be allowed within the initial five (5) year-period of the franchise or CPC.
3. ***Required CNG PUB units.*** Franchises shall be issued only to the first 207 CNG buses to operate along the South Luzon routes passing through, CNG filling stations to be established by DOE with the agreed preferential CNG price of Php 14.52 per diesel liter equivalent (DLE). Should a portion of the 207 CNG bus units be delivered (FOB-Manila) before 31 December 2005, CPC applications shall still be accepted with same preferential CNG price/DLE, subject to the availability of RMC.
4. ***Routes and Route Measured Capacities (RMC).*** The following routes and the corresponding RMCs shall be allowed under the **Government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT).**

	Routes	RMC	
a)	Lawton – Batangas	89 units	
b)	Lawton – Calamba	60 units	
c)	Lawton – Sta. Rosa via Balibago	54 units	
d)	Ayala – Sta. Rosa via Balibago	4 units	207 units

5. ***Garage and Terminal Inspection.*** A joint DOTC/LTFRB and DOE Inspection Team shall be created to ensure compliance with basic technical requirements. However, the terminals shall be transferred upon completion of South Luzon Routes Inter-modal Terminals.
6. ***Markings and Decals.*** A distinct marking scheme shall be assigned to CNG buses to include corporate color scheme, International CNG symbols for natural gas vehicles, DOTC/LTFRB and DOE logos.
7. ***Fare Regulation.*** Fares for CNG PUBs shall be subject to the regulation of the Board.
8. ***Franchise Processing Express Lane.*** LTFRB shall establish an express lane for CNG PUB applications. As such, publications period for said applications shall be for five (5) days only in a newspaper of general circulation. Moreover, LTFRB franchise processing shall be completed within fifteen (15) working days from the Date of Inspection.

Other rules and regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect (15) days following the filing of three copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. 14 November 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-038

SUBJECT : **DEADLINE FOR INITIAL COMPLIANCE OF APPLICATION FOR CONVERSION TO AUV/VAN EXPRESS**

In relation to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the AUV/Van Express Service as per Memorandum Circular 2005-023, the Board is directing all the qualified CPC holders to comply with the procedural guidelines of the said Memorandum Circular, which states ***"b) Upon filling-up, the respondent operator shall call a Secretariat telephone hotline to schedule pick-up of document package via Courier Service, including the payment (Manager's Check/Cashiers Check) and duly accomplished form, LTO or/CR of vehicle and other required documents (xerox copy) from the residence or business address of the operator"*** considering that Pre-qualification letter and Application/Information Forms and Checklist of Requirements were already sent to qualified CPC holder(s) through mail. The Deadline for initial compliance is until January 6, 2006.

Failure to comply within the time frame prescribed above shall cause the cancellation and revocation of Certificate of Public Convenience of qualified Applicant for Conversion to AUV/Van Express, and shall cause the move of the conversion program to Phase Two (2) which shall now allow Mega Taxi franchise operators to apply for conversion.

The Route Measured Capacity (RMC) allocation for those who shall fail to comply shall be allotted to grantees of CPC to operate Mega Taxi Air-Conditioned Service, subject to the same guidelines and procedures as provided for under the same Memorandum Circular.

The AUV/ Van Express shall be known and renamed as P2P Express (Point to Point), since AUV's have been phased out by car manufacturers.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. Nov. 14, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-039

SUBJECT : **FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF MC 2003-020 WITH SUPPLEMENT**

The Board, in line with the program of the President for effective monitoring and improve revenue collection has resolved to proceed with the full implementation of Memorandum Circular 2003-020; RE-DIRECTIVE FOR A UNIFORM PERTINENT DATA PRINTED ON THE RECEIPT OF TAXI METER, effective January 1, 2006. Taxi meters of the unit should now be placed on top of the dashboard with the receipt issuing facility for easy visual access to the passenger as to the fare rate. All issuing receipt meters must be registered with Bureau of Internal Revenue.

All grantees of Certificates of Public Convenience to operate Taxi Air-Conditioned Service are hereby directed to strictly comply with this Memorandum Circular, otherwise, the following scale of penalties shall be imposed.

1. **First Offense — P 1,500.00**
2. **Second Offense — Suspension of CPC for 30 days**
3. **Third Offense — Cancellation of CPC**

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith.

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation or the filing of the three (3) copies hereof with the University of the Philippines Law Center pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11 dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED

Quezon City, Philippines. Nov. 16, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-040

SUBJECT : **PENALTY FOR LATE RESEALING**

Due to the clamor of Taxi Air-Conditioned Service Operators for the reduction of penalty for late resealing, the Board hereby modifies Memorandum Circular 2004-045, Re: Schedule of Calibration and Resealing, dated December 21, 2004, with respect to the penalty imposition for late resealing from P250.00 per week to P125.00 per week.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. Nov. 18, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-041

SUBJECT : **PENALTY FOR LATE CONFIRMATION**

It has been observed by the Board after conducting an internal audit that a substantial number of grantees of Certificates of Public Convenience are filed for confirmation beyond the period prescribed for registration. In view thereof, the penalty of P250.00 per week shall be imposed for those who belatedly file their confirmation:

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. Nov. 18, 2005.

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-042

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF CERTIFICATE OF YEAR MODEL**

In line with the modernization program of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), all grantees of Certificates of Public Convenience to Operate Public Utility Bus Service, Airconditioned or Regular, Provincial or Metro Manila Routes, are strictly ordered to submit the Certification of Year Model of all their authorized units up to January 16, 2006. Failure to comply with this Memorandum shall render their authorized units not supported with Certification as phased-out units. Submission of spurious and tampered Certification shall subject the grantee to a penalty of suspension or cancellation of CPC.

PUB Operators with phased-out units are ordered to refleet their units which will conform with the existing guidelines of this Board regarding substitution of PUB units.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. Nov. 18, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-043

SUBJECT : **PENALTY FOR ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED PULL-TIGHT SEALS AND LOSS OF TAXI OPERATOR'S CALIBRATION BOOKLET**

In view of the number of incidents reported to the Central Office regarding the illegal acquisition of pull-tight seals, the Board hereby imposes the following graduated penalties against operators whose taxi unit/s is found to have an illegally acquired pull-tight seals:

First Offense	**P 1,500.00**
Second Offense	**P 3,000.00 plus 30 day suspension of CPC**
Third Offense	**P 5,000.00 and Cancellation** of CPC

Insofar as the loss of Pull-Tight seals, the following penalty scheme shall be imposed:

First Offense	**P 1,500.00**
Second Offense	**P 3,000.00**
Third Offense	**P 5,000.00**

With regard to the loss of Taxi Operator's Calibration Booklet is concerned, the penalty of One Thousand Pesos (1,000.00) shall be imposed.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. Nov. 18, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 2005-044

SUBJECT **EXEMPTION TO MC 2005-006**

Due to the clamor of Tourist Rent-a-Car Transport Service operators for the exemption with the implementation of MC 2005-006, Re: Additional Marking Requirement for All Public Utility Service dated March 1, 2005, the Board hereby exempts Tourist Rent-a-Car Transport Service in the implementation of the said Memorandum Circular, and reinstates the effectivity of Memorandum Circular 2004-011, Re: Amendment to Memorandum Circular 2003-011 (Reclassifying Tourist Transport Services) dated May 26, 2004 with regard to Tourist Rent-a-Car Transport Service, wherein it specifically mentioned that "x x x These vehicles must have no body markings".

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. Nov 18, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
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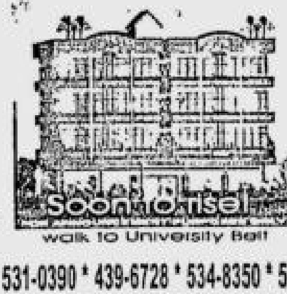

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

AFP Community Area Network (AFPCAN) Project
Establishment of the AFP Wide Area Network Infrastructure

1. The *Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines)*, through the *General Appropriations Act and the AFP Modernization Program Act Trust Fund* intends to apply the sum of *FIFTY MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P 50,400,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *AFP Community Area Network (AFPCAN) Project*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. The *DND/AFP* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the Supply, Installation, Configuration, Test and Commissioning of the AFPCAN consisting of:*
   a) *one (1) Network Operations /Data Center and one (1) Camp Aguinaldo Network (CAGNET),*
   b) *nine (9) remotely connected Local Area Networks (LANs) for three (3) major services headquarters (HPA, HPAF, HPN) and six (6) Unified Commands (UCs), and*
   c) *Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity of the existing LANs of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Presidential Security Group (PSG) and AFP Medical Center (AFPMC).*

   The expected contract duration is *within 180 days from the issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP) to the winning bidder*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *AFP Modernization Project Management Office (AFPMPMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable cash in the amount of *Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00)*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *DND Bids and Awards Committee* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *29 November 2005, 10:00 a.m.* at *the Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *10:00 a.m. of 15 December 2005*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the forms and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *15 December 2005, 10:00 a.m.* at *Silid Panday Pira, 1/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below
9. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding are encouraged to apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005.
10. The *DND/AFP* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Secretariat
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Modernization Program Management Office
3/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
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Telefax No: (632) 912-9541 / 421-2327
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(PDI – November 14 & 21, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Wack' Golf & Country Club Stock Cert. No. 657, Serial #1494 issued to Fortunato P. Agues has been misplaced & cannot be located. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. (PDI-Nov. 7, 14, & 21 2005)

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"I am the way, the truth and the life: No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

In Loving Memory

Thirteen Years ago, on November 21, 1992, a loving devoted Wife, Mother and Grandmother

Luz Bautista Marcelo

Left this world to join our Creator in His Heavenly Kingdom.
Her Family requests relatives and friends to remember her in prayer on this day.

*"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord
and let Perpetual Light shine upon her."*

Holy Masses will be offered today, Monday, November 21, 2005.

Assumption Parish, Malate, Manila	6:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Malabon City	6:00 AM; 6:00PM
Mary The Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.	7:00 AM
Mount Carmel Shrine, Broadway, New Manila, Q. C.	7:00 AM
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary, Santo Domingo Church, Q.C.	5:45 AM
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kanlaon St., Q.C.	7:30 AM
National Shrine of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo	5:30 PM
Nuestra Señora De Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City	6:00 AM
Nuestra Señora De Guia Parish, M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila	8:00 AM
Our Lady of the Pilar Parish, Sta. Cruz Church, Manila	8:00 AM
Santuario De San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park	7:30 AM; 12:15 PM 6:00 PM
Santuario De San Jose Parish, Greenhills	6:15 AM; 7:15 AM 6:15 PM
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Orense St., Makati City	12:00 NOON
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan	7:00 AM
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz St., Makati City	6:30 AM

Our Dearly Beloved

HERMINIA HUGO-CORDEZ

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 16th day of November 2005 at the age of 67.

She shall be missed by her dearest husband **Capt. Pamfilo L. Cordez;** children **Rhonnie H. Cordez & Merlyn Sotomayor-Cordez, Rhandy H. Cordez** and **Sherry H. Cordez;** grandchildren **John Paul, Jennifer, Carl Joseph & Jasmin Grace;** nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be flown to Nabua, Camarines Sur on Tuesday, November 22, 2005.

Interment will be announced later.

We remember and pray for the
eternal rest of the soul of our dear

ILUMINADA "LUMING" S. BERNARDO

on her 6th Death Anniversary
on November 21, 2005.

Masses for the repose of her soul
will be offered in the following churches:

6:00 a.m.
Sta. Clara, Quezon City
Lourdes Church, Quezon City
San Jose de Trozo, Manila
Pink Sisters Convent (New Manila), Quezon City
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City
Our Lady of Sorrow

12:00 p.m.
Buklod ng Pag-ibig Chapel

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***National Food Authority Region 6***, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified grains handling services contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VI for Calendar Year 2006.

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	ESTIMATED VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (In bag of 50 kgs)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
1	Aklan	43,850	P 165,753.00
2	Antique	58,200	P 219,996.00
3	Capiz	109,350	P 413,343.00
4	Iloilo & Guimaras	238,000	P 899,640.00
5	Negros Occidental	240,000	P 907,200.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 15 – Dec. 6, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	December 9, 2005 – 2:00 PM
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	December 21, 2005 – 9:00 AM
4. Opening of Bids	December 21, 2005 – 9:15 AM
5. Bid Evaluation	December 22 – 23, 2005
6. Post-qualification	December 26 – 28, 2005
7. Notice of Award	December 29, 2005

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the National Food Authority Cashier.

The National Food Authority, Region 6, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The ***National Food Authority, Region 6*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Nov. 14 & 21, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bulacan
MUNICIPALITY OF BALIUAG
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF INVITATION

The Municipal Government of Baliuag intends to finance an integrated Solid Waste Management System including a Materials Recovery Facility utilizing proceeds raised from the issuance of the Baliuag Star Bonds. In this connection, the Municipality requires the services of a Guarantor, who shall guarantee the payment and redemption of the Bonds to the public; an Underwriter, who shall underwrite the sale and distribution of the Baliuag Star Bond; and a Trustee, who shall act as Trustee Bank and paying agent. Other participating underwriter and/or selling agents may also form part of this activity in order to sell the bonds to the public on a firm basis as may be agreed upon.

In view thereon, the Municipal Government of Baliuag invites all interested parties to submit their sealed proposal for Underwriter and Trustee Bank services at the office of the BAC Secretariat at Baliuag Municipal Building, B. S. Aquino Ave., Bagong Nayon, Baliuag, Bulacan not later than 12:00 noon on November 29, 2005. For purposes hereof, the Terms of Reference and Guidelines are available for issuance for prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 and submission of letter of intent.

The Municipality of Baliuag reserves the right to reject any or all proposal to waive any infirmities in the proposal received and/or accept offers for the above-mentioned services, which are complying and most advantageous to the Municipality of Baliuag.

For further details, please see BAC Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO R. VIOLA**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Nov. 18 & 21, 2005)

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Lighting Works at Building 3, 4A and 4B under EDC 05-166-1

The Approved Budget is PHP3,010,231.47 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 40 calendar days.

Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o M. C. Uribe) **starting November 21, 2005, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (PHP500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 24, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Room, 1st Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.**

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. of (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of December 2, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered the most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 21 & 28, 2005

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Take notice that the following Official Receipts of **Ogilvy and Mather Philippines** have been reported lost:

OR Nos.:

16605 16515 16537

The public is advised/warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by Ogilvy and Mather Philippines.

(PDI--Nov. 21, 2005)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors, registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified, at least, as IAC Medium, Sub-Category A, General Engineering or General Building and must have completed within the last ten (10) years at least one contract for the civil, structural, and mechanical/piping works which is similar to the contract under bidding amounting to at least 50% of the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project.

CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, AND MECHANICAL/PIPING WORKS FOR THE CONVERSION OF TONGONAN REINJECTION TO PRODUCTION WELL (1R4), MG-9D PRODUCTION WELL HOOK-UP TO SS2, AND MAHANAGDONG A SS#1 DUMPLINE TO CONCRETE SILENCER
EDC 05-187

The Approved Budget is **PhP 12,195,200.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 150 calendar days

Application forms for eligibility may be secured form the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Francis T. Tolibas local 5179) starting **November 21, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Two Hundred (PhP 200.00).**

A clarificatory meeting on the eligibility screening will be held on **December 1, 2005, 1:30 p.m.** at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. The Application for Eligibility and Letter of Intent must be submitted to the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group not **later than 2:00 p.m. of December 9, 2005.**

Bid documents will be available for issuance to eligible bidders starting **January 9, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: One Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 1,500.00).** Site inspection is on **January 19, 2006** at the Leyte Geothermal Production Field in Ormoc, Leyte For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **January 23, 2006, 10:00 a.m.** at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Metro Manila.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group. First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of February 9, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov 21 & 28, 2005

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Take notice that the following Official Receipts of **Sucere Foods Corporation** have been reported lost:

OR Nos.:

3339 2858 2860
2872 3366

The public is advised/warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by Sucere Foods Corporation.

(PDI--Nov. 21, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Take notice that the following Official Receipts of **Magnolia, Inc.** have been reported lost:

OR Nos'.:

1844 2124 2125
2126 2127

The public is advised/warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by Magnolia, Inc.

(PDI--Nov. 21, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Take notice that the following Official Receipts of **San Miguel Corporation (CKAG)** have been reported lost:

OR Nos.:

106245 106821

The public is advised/warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by San Miguel Corporation (CKAG).

(PDI--Nov. 21, 2005)

BUSINESS

'06 economy growth seen to be modest

RP says '06 GDP growth may hit 6.3%, but IIF conservatively pegs it at 4.9%

By Michelle V. Remo

Real GDP by Expenditure

(percent change from previous year)	2003	2004e	2005f	2006f
Real GDP	4.6	6.0	4.8	4.9
Domestic demand	3.9	6.5	4.2	4.2
Private consumption	5.3	5.8	5.1	4.7
Government consumption	2.5	0.0	5.5	5.0
Gross fixed investment	2.1	5.2	2.0	2.8
Change in stockbuilding'	-0.6	1.2	-0.4	-0.2
Change in foreign balance'	-3.3	2.9	2.5	0.5

e=estimate, f=IIF forecast
'Percent of GDP

SOURCE: NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

GROWTH OF THE Philippine economy is expected to remain modest until 2006, as the government is expected to take on the twin tasks of fixing its budget woes and curbing inflation through tight monetary policy.

This was the projection made by the Institute of International Finance Inc. (IIF), an association of financial institutions worldwide. IIF said the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth would stand at only 4.9 percent next year.

The government's economic team has set a GDP growth goal of 5.7 to 6.3 percent in 2006, while the original target under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) was set at 6.3 to 7.3 percent.

"Rising energy prices, renewed weakness in agriculture and sluggish exports are poised to slow real GDP from the 15-year high of 6.1 percent in 2004...," IIF said in its assessment paper on the Philippine economy dated Nov. 11.

It noted that the slowdown has begun this year, when it sees GDP to hit a full-year average of only 4.8 percent.

IIF estimated that the country's exports would growth only between 3 and 5 percent in 2006, thus staying near the expected 4-percent growth for 2005. The projected export growth figures for this year and the next reflect a slowdown from the 9-percent growth registered in 2004.

"The government's effort to contain the budget deficit and the central bank's tightening bias are also potential weights on growth," the group added.

Efforts to lower the budget deficit usually entail reducing government spending which, on the contrary, has to be increased if authorities want to pump-prime the economy using fiscal policy.

Tightening of monetary policy, such as through raising interest rates, discourages investments, which are also requisites for the economy to grow.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas this year has twice raised its key interest rates to 7.5 percent for overnight borrowing, and 9.75 percent for overnight lending, as it aimed to curb an expected acceleration of inflation.

Higher interest rates reduce demand for loans and, therefore, limit money in circulation and investments.

IIF, however, said rising inflows from remittances from overseas Filipino workers would be a growth contributor and would temper the slowdown in the economy. OFW remittances would likewise help keep the country's dollar holdings stable.

The group also identified the expected increase in tourist arrivals and the continued expansion of the call center industry as factors that would cushion the adverse effects of tight fiscal and monetary policy on the economy's performance.

IIF said that the unstable political environment remain a concern for investors. It is also the reason why the Philippine economy has been growing much less than it should be.

"Allegations of vote-rigging and illicit activities on the part of close family members (of President Macapagal-Arroyo) are stark reminders of the poor state of public governance that has plagued domestic political conditions and hampered economic development over the past several years," the group said.

Workers' exodus boosts dollar inflows

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS SEES the country's balance-of-payments (BOP) surplus to surpass its target and rise above $1 billion in inflows by yearend due to increased remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The revised BOP surplus forecast is higher than the $853-million program originally set by the central bank for 2005.

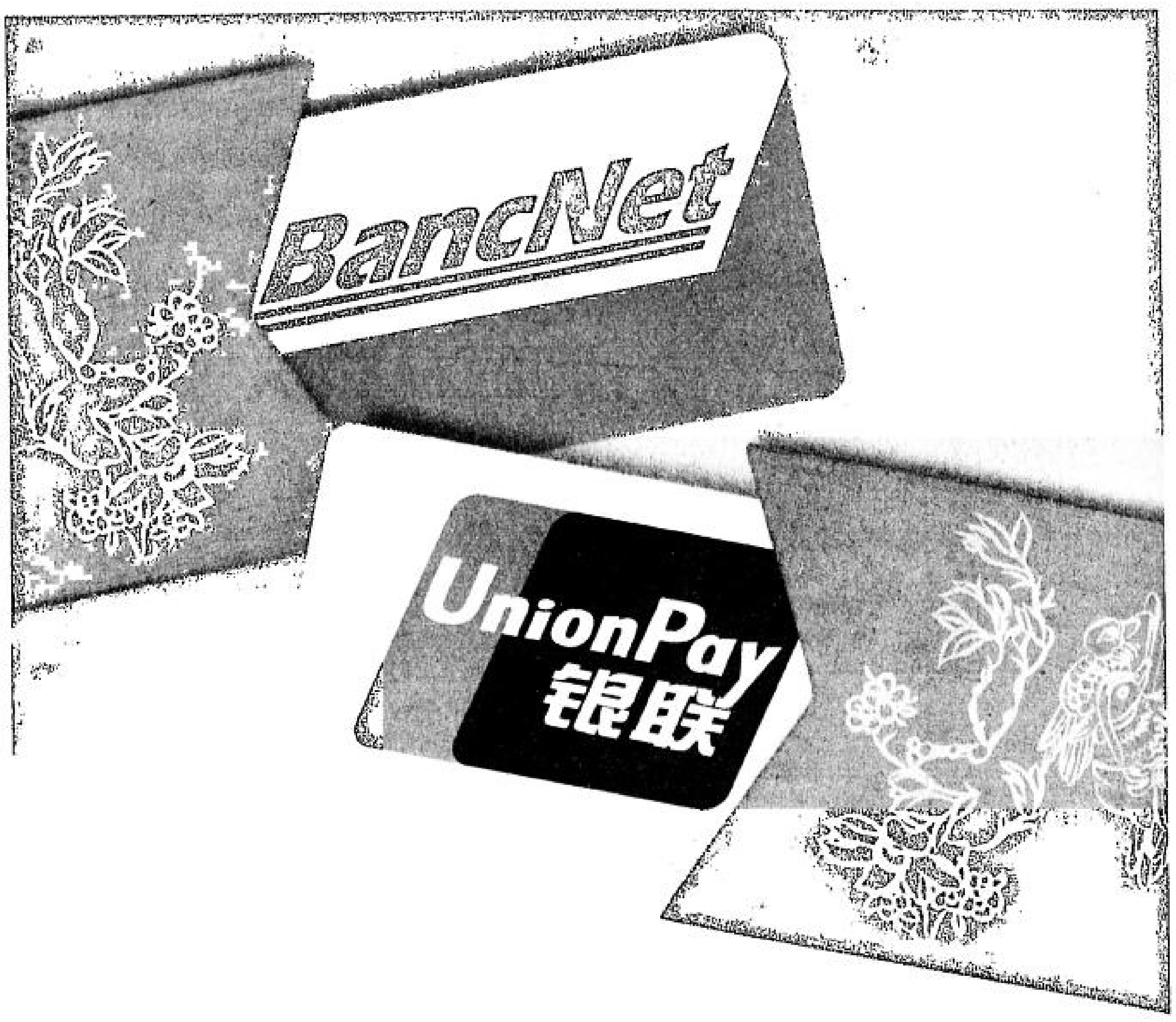
OFW remittances is one of the factors affecting the BOP position, which is a summary of a country's transactions with the rest of the world. A surplus in the BOP means a country had more foreign currency inflows than outflows, while a deficit shows the opposite. A country's BOP position is one of the key factors affecting a local currency's performance vis-a-vis other currencies.

According to a BSP official who asked not to be named, year-on-year growth in OFW remittances will likely hit 20 percent by end-2005, or double the 10-percent growth programmed for the year. The higher forecast for OFW remittances was made following strong inflows posted last October, when remittances grew by 28 percent to $7.9 billion compared versus levels recorded in same month last year.

Other factors affecting the BOP position are net exports, net portfolio and equity investments, foreign exchange income, and other financial transfers.

While the expected BOP surplus of at least $1 billion would be better than target, it would also be lower than the $2.3 billion already recorded as of the first 10 months of the year. This means the country is expected to post BOP deficits in the two remaining months of the year, with the need to pay off maturing foreign obligations.

According to a BSP official, the increasing deployment of Filipinos abroad reflects the fact that the country has insufficient employment opportunities for its labor force. *Michelle V. Remo*



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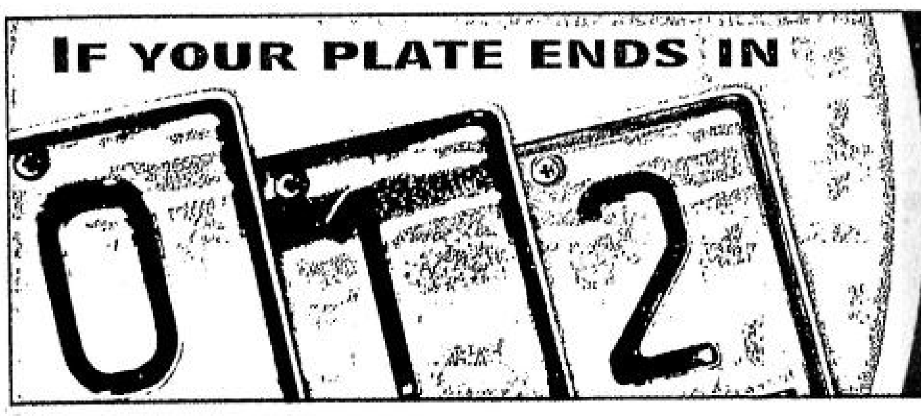
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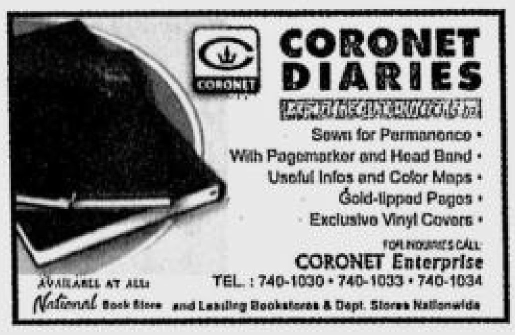
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Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

AYALA CORP. CEO Jaime Agusto Zobel de Ayala II. CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

Working on RP's strengths

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE PHILIPPINES' COMPETITIVENESS ranking in the world economy deteriorated further this year and remains in the lower echelons.

In his keynote talk on "Selling Brand Philippines" during the opening of the 19th Philippine Advertising Congress, Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II cited a recent report of the Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum, where the country ranked 77 out of 117 nations. This represented a decline from last year's rank of 76 out of 104 countries.

"The report cited that the most problematic issues that have affected our country's competitiveness as an investment destination are the inadequate supply of infrastructure, inefficiencies in government bureaucracy, as well as instability in policies," stated Zobel.

"There is clearly tremendous scope for correcting our deficiencies in these areas to bring our competitiveness scoring higher up the ranks."

"We cannot afford to stay in the lower end of the spectrum," he added. "The reality of the global economy constantly pushes the investors to weigh the comparative advantages of locating in particular countries. Benchmarking against our neighbors and other developing nations is critical as it gives us a measure of how we fare against standards and best practices, so that we can effectively compete in the world market."

Jaza, as the Ayala CEO is better known, also cited an International Finance Corp. study on Doing Business in 2004, which rated 130 countries' attractiveness for business. In it, the Philippines was ranked in the middle of the pack—ahead of African, Middle Eastern and South American countries, although the country continued to lag behind the more

WORKING/ B2-2

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All the winners may choose from a wide variety of items from the SM Supermarkets, SM Department Stores, SM Appliance, Watson's, Ace Hardware, Toy Kingdom, Our Home and other SM affiliates.

This promo is automatically open to all existing and new individual members of the BDO Rewards Program with active and/or current accounts. In order to qualify, the minimum required balances should be met.

Every one (1) BDO point earned on the BDO Rewards Card entitles you to one (1) raffle entry. Raffle entries shall be assigned at the end of each month for the duration of the raffle promo.

Raffle entries will be electronically generated on the outstanding total points earned from the time of membership. The BDO Rewards Card Number shall be the identifier of the member and shall be used as entry number for the raffle promotion.

Members shall be assigned raffle entries based on the BDO points earned for the month. Members may check their available raffle entries through the BDO Call Center at 631-8000, Domestic Toll Free # 1-800-10-631-8000 or by visiting any BDO branch.

Winners will be notified through registered mail. Winners' names will be published in leading newspapers and will be posted in all BDO branches nationwide.

Promo runs from November 01 to December 31, 2005. All active members as of December 31, 2005 will continue to earn raffle entries up to January 31,2006. Grand Raffle Draw will be on February 10, 2006.

So what are you waiting for? Simply open a peso or dollar current/savings account, place your funds in BDO's Unit Investment Trust Funds, or avail of any of our consumer lending products such as home loan, car loan, or personal loan at any Banco de Oro Branch nearest you or use any of your BDO Credit cards (Standard, Gold or Shop More) to purchase anything and everything your heart desires!

To join, interested BDO individual customers with active/or current accounts must simply enroll in the BDO Rewards Program. Membership is absolutely free and is open to all BDO individual clients, seven years old and above.

To know more about BDO Rewards, please call BDO Call Center at 631-8000 or Domestic / Provincial Toll Free number 1-800-10-6318000 or visit your nearest BDO branch and SIGN UP NOW!

At BDO, We Find Ways...
to keep rewarding you with thanks!
BANKING HAS NEVER BEEN
THIS REWARDING!

BANKING HAS NEVER BEEN THIS REWARDING!

"I bought a new Car through the Banco de Oro Auto Loan. I enjoy easy payment terms, low interest and great rewards. Iba ang REWARDS dito!"

Marvin Agustin
Actor/Entrepreneur

Own your dream car now through the Banco de Oro Auto Loan. Enjoy easy payment terms with low interest rate and start earning points which you can use to redeem real rewards of your choice from any SM affiliate store.

Open a BDO Savings or Current Account, place your funds in BDO's Unit Investment Trust Funds, get a Home Loan, Personal Loan or simply apply for any BDO Credit Card to earn points faster!

Plus, every reward point you earn until January 31, 2006 is equivalent to one raffle entry in the BDO Rewards All Year FREE-Shopping Raffle!

For BDO Rewards program details, contact the BDO Call Center at 631-8000, Domestic Toll Free # 1-800-10-631-8000 or visit any Banco de Oro Branch near you. Points system is subject to the terms and conditions of the BDO Rewards program.

Member PDIC. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor: P250,000.00 Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2878, Series of 2005.

ADVERTISING CONGRESS DISCUSSIONS

Country, women, and values

SELLING THE COUNTRY. SELLING TO women. Selling with values.

These were the topics of three distinguished speakers who all packed the plenary hall of the Cebu Waterfront Hotel during their presentations on the first day of the 19th Philippine Ad Congress (PAC).

Business magnate Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala opened the Congress with a keynote speech on "Selling Brand Philippines."

Later in the day, Leo-Burnett president Michelle Kristula-Greene delivered, "Miss Understood: She's Not Buying Your Ads," and Mike Amour, chief executive officer for Grey Global, presented "Shifting Brand Paradigms: What Constitutes a Strong Brand in the Age of the Empowered Consumer."

AT LEAST 3,000 delegates participated in the 29th Philippine Ad Congress.

Brand Philippines

Ayala began the sessions for the 19th PAC, which carries the theme "Ready for the World," by challenging the local advertising industry to determine how it can help the 'three legs' that will walk the Philippines toward the path of economic progress.

"This advertising congress takes place at a pivotal time in history. Developing countries have a window of opportunity but the price of failure is steep," he says.

Ayala's 'three legs' are a mix of macro and micro reforms, the Filipino people, and the private sector.

Getting the girls

It's time to talk to women.

And there is good reason to do so. Women, Greene says, control 80 percent of all decisions for both big and small ticket purchases ranging from household staples to consumer durables to luxury items.

Citing the results of a focused group discussion conducted with women, 14 to 40 years old, in Singapore, Hongkong, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, Greene outlines changing attitudes in five key areas—money, sex, humor, emotion and authenticity.

These changing attitudes are driven by cultural changes sweeping all over the globe such that women today are better educated, career-focused, and have more spending power than ever before.

Greene underlines that the study likewise shows that notwithstanding these gains, much of the advertising material targeted at women are executed from an off-sync male perspective, prone to stereotyping, and sometimes offensive.

Thus the need for advertising agencies to rethink the tone, target and message of their outputs.

She gives several guidelines to get into the hearts, minds and pockets of this dynamic, influential, and growing female market.

"Tell the truth. Don't talk down to us and we'll reward you," she stresses.

Greene also espouses the use of humor, the infusion of genuine emotion that will tug at women's heartstrings and even sex. She says that sex, thought to be an effective tool in selling to men, is equally effective with women as they increasingly become in touch with feminine sexuality and aspire for more sexual freedom.

"Sex sells. You just have to try a new position. Take it from the woman's point of view," Greene says.

In the final analysis, if advertising is to follow the money, it has to put the woman on top because the growing buying power of the discerning female Asian buyer.

In this digital age wherein information flows swiftly and seamlessly across borders, Amour underlines the need for companies to infuse cultural values into their brand value.

According to Amour, buyers are becoming increasingly sensitive to regional and local issues and advocacies and a strong global brand is one that differentiates itself by keeping up with this heightened social awareness and developing a level of intimacy with the market.

"Being different depends on being authentic and true to your values, not just the shareholders. Brand value is tied to values and ethics. Corporate reputation is converging with branding. Intimacy is the new consumer paradigm," Amour says.

To achieve this, Amour says that companies must infuse values that their markets hold dear into their brand character, brand story and the consumers' brand experience.

This calls for a shift in brand paradigms such that while marketers once thought that 'brand value' is the key difference, the emphasis today should be on 'brand values.'

According to Amour, by bolstering brand value through the infusion of positive cultural values, companies can uplift the image of their products from being "affordable commodities to premium desirables."

If they are to increase the level of respect of the market, companies must be able to go beyond manufacturing and engage in brand-building.

And for advertising professionals that play a pivotal role in their clients' brand-building efforts, perhaps the weightiest addition to brand value could very well be good, modern-fashioned values.

Although Amour says the Asian market is "consistently inconsistent and can't be averaged," the study revealed some drastic changes in consumer culture that have far-

COUNTRY/ B2-5

Working on RP's strengths

From page B2-1

dynamic economies.

His talk, however, was not full of pessimism.

"Fortunately, we are entering the game with certain assets in our favor—a wondrous natural resource base, a people of considerable resourcefulness and creativity, and a head start in doing business and communicating with the international community," he said.

He added that the key to engaging the global economy rests on three legs.

"The first leg is the mix of macro- and microeconomic reforms which are the fundamentals for any country and any economy to enter global competition," he said. "The second leg is our most important resource—our people—who embody our competitive advantage in the world today. Our demographic profile, combined with the skill of our workforce, present a compelling proposition to the global economy.

"And the third leg is our private sector encompassing small, medium and large enterprises," he said. "They serve as our real engine for national transformation and given current market realities. They play a critical role in creating a more inclusive environment that serves the needs of the underprivileged and marginalized sectors of our society."

The Philippines, Zobel said, has a demographic advantage in competing in the global environment.

He added that the Western countries' populations are aging, while demographics show that the Philippine populating is getting younger.

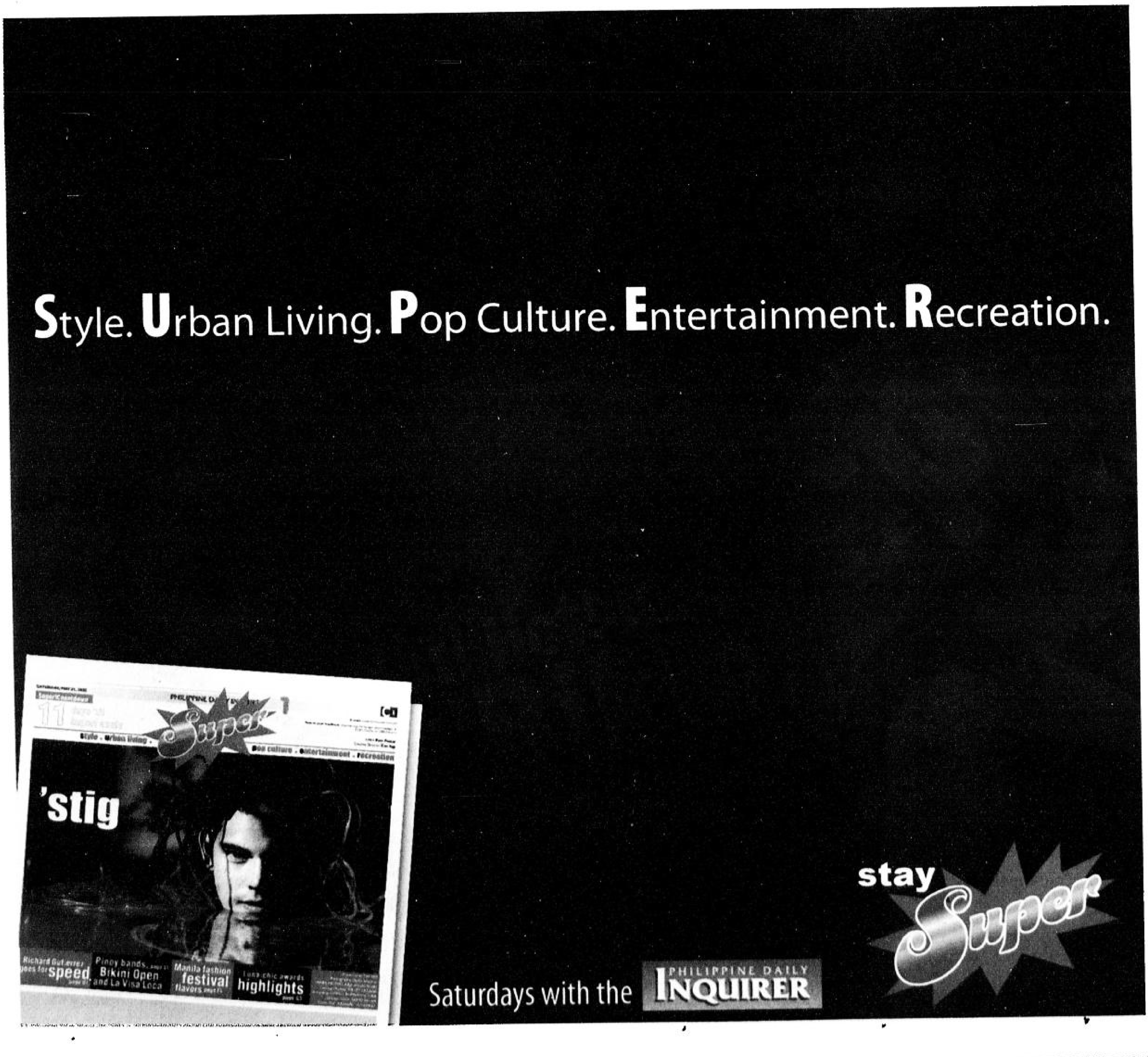
"Our population stands squarely on the upside of the demographic trends. The Philippine population has entered an important stage structurally where those of working age will considerably dwarf those of dependent age," Zobel said.

He warned, however, that the country must ensure that people's skills are constantly updated and upgraded in order to remain relevant and competitive in the global marketplace, for it to benefit from the redistribution of jobs.

He cited the high failure rate of Filipino nurses in exams abroad and the difficulty of the outsourcing industry to get enough English-speaking staff.

Also crucial to the country's development he said is greater coverage of microfinance banking.

Commenting on the Ad Congress' theme "Ready for the World?" Zobel said, "I strongly believe we have some of the essentials in place. But we must work urgently and vigorously to seize our window of opportunity."


Style. Urban Living. Pop Culture. Entertainment. Recreation.

stay Super

Saturdays with the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Phinma story on change management (Part II)

MAPping THE FUTURE

Ramon R. del Rosario

LET US NOW MOVE TO HOUSING, where it is through a subsidiary called Phinma Property Holdings Corp. (PPHC) that we are pursuing our mission of making Filipino lives better by giving them access to affordable housing in urban areas, initially in Metro Manila.

PPHC is an award winning leader in medium-rise housing. Its notable projects include Smiles Citihomes and the recently completed Sunny Villas, both in Quezon City. PPHC built and sold 1,000 housing units in 2004, and looks forward to at least matching this record in 2005 through its new project called Spazio Bernardo.

PPHC is able to offer attractive homes in wholesome communities, supported by Pag-IBIG financing, at affordable prices.

This it does through a business model whereby it enters into joint ventures with owners of idle properties in accessible areas in Metro Manila and by using a tunnel form system, making it the lowest cost builder of medium-rise buildings.

PPHC's cast-in-place system allows us to build quickly, at a rate of one floor a day or a four-building cluster of 116 units in 60 days.

This results not only in lower construction costs, but in lower financing costs as well, in view of the shorter construction period. Also, the use of the tunnel forms produces smooth walls without further cement plastering thus giving the units a better finish.

PPHC's track record with Pag-IBIG has earned for it the distinction of being one of the most highly dependable and trusted housing developers accredited with Pag-IBIG. PPHC's units are typically 30 square meters in size and sell for P500,000 to P800,000.

Because of the quality and location of its projects, PPHC's units are granted high appraisal values, thus allowing 100 percent loan value. Thus PPHC units can be purchased for as low an amortization as P5,500 monthly with no down payment. No developer in Metro Manila offers a better value than this.

I am pleased to report that PPHC turned in a highly satisfactory financial performance for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2005, registering net income of P51 million and a return on stockholders equity of approximately 20 percent.

Energy

Allow me now to turn to the energy sector, where the Phinma Group is enthusiastically looking at opportunities arising from the restructuring and privatization of National Power Corp., focusing mainly on a possible participation in geothermal power plants.

If we are successful in acquiring a major geothermal power plant, power generation will instantly become the dominant business in our portfolio.

Our hope is to use the expertise and experience of the management team led by former Energy Secretary Francisco Viray to deliver energy to the communities we will serve with the utmost efficiency and reliability, thus making life significantly better for the people in these communities.

Trans Asia Oil and its 50 percent subsidiary, TA Power, which are the vehicles through which the group seeks opportunities in the energy sector, currently operate a 53-megawatt dedicated power plant for Holcim Philippines Inc., and have also recently completed a 3.4-MW power plant to serve the island of Guimaras. Trans Asia Oil is also one of the few remaining Filipino companies participating in the search for oil in the Philippines.

Financial services

Among our current businesses, the financial services arm of the Group, AB Capital and Investment Corp., returned to profitability in 2004 with a modest net income of P7 million after suffering for several years from the downturn in the Philippine capital market brought about by the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

AB Capital's rehabilitation involved significant manpower and overhead cost reductions and significant fresh equity infusion from its shareholders.

As it celebrates its 25th anniversary, AB Capital faces the future with renewed confidence, armed with an equity base of P1 billion, making it one of the highest capitalized independent investment houses in the country.

A full-service investment house with a leading stock brokerage subsidiary, AB Capital focuses on providing investors a wider array of investment opportunities, offering better instruments and yields than are readily available from banks and bank-related financial institutions.

Even as it strives to cope with political uncertainty and highly

HOUSING/ B2-5

BDO Rewards Program –
A Loyalty Program Like No Other

Banking indeed has never been this rewarding with Banco de Oro (BDO) Rewards Program.

While other banks are rewarding clients only for a specific product or service, Banco de Oro is continuously finding ways and means of rewarding ALL their bank clients.

BDO Rewards Program was conceptualized and launched on March, 2005. The program aims to provide the best Bank Loyalty Program in the Philippines with its superior and flexible program features: the value given back to the members is the most generous in the industry; the program allows members to accumulate points fast and easy through the different bank products and services and because of the relationship with SM Department Stores, SM Supermarkets and the other SM affiliates, the basket of rewards is literally limitless and the minimum threshold to attain a reward is the lowest in the industry and most important of all, the redemption process is almost immediate and seamless.

BDO Rewards Program offers more VALUE to its clients. No other bank offers its loyal patrons as many opportunities to be gratified—instant freebies, exclusive privileges and discounts at top merchant partner establishments.

The BDO Rewards points also have a double feature: each reward point is a raffle entry that entitles the members to win instantly TWELVE MONTHS FREE SHOPPING SPREE at any SM Supermarket, Department Store and SM affiliates.

Countless freebies and privileges are up for grabs immediately for those who take advantage of the program. The BDO Rewards Card also serves as a privilege card to a wide array of discounts at top establishments in food, fashion, beauty, leisure and gasoline stations. A member who signs up with the BDO Rewards Program automatically receives a host of freebie coupons at selected SM establishments.

Accumulate MORE points FASTER! No other bank program in the Philippines offers a mechanism of earning points faster! Simply open a savings or checking account with Banco de Oro and you can apply to be a member of the BDO Rewards Program. To start earning the BDO rewards points, you just have to maintain a minimum of Php50,000 in your savings or current account, place a minimum Php 500,000 of your funds with BDO Investment products or get a home, car or personal loan at Banco de Oro. The more transactions you make, the more points you get!

Moreover, members also receive points while shopping at Banco de Oro retail partners, which include SM Department Store, Ace Hardware, Toy Kingdom, Sports Central, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, SM Appliance Center, Surplus Shop, Kultura, and Our Home. There are rewards waiting for you at Chateau Elysee and Petron, as well.

Unlike other programs where the rewards are limited, your BDO points may be used to redeem SM Gift Cheques at any SM Department Store or SM Supermarket Customer Service Counter. SM Gift Cheques can be used to buy any item at all SM retail establishments and SM affiliates. Members may choose the reward of their choice equivalent to the points they have earned. The entire SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Toy Kingdom, Ace Hardware and other affiliates is your rewards catalogue. No other rewards program is more exciting and flexible!

So what are you waiting for? Simply open a peso or dollar current/savings account, invest in a trust fund, or avail of any of our consumer lending products such as home loan, car loan, or personal loan at any Banco de Oro Branch nearest you or use any of your BDO Credit cards (Standard, Gold or Shop More) to purchase anything and everything your heart desires!

To join, interested BDO individual clients with active/or current accounts must simply enroll in the BDO Rewards Program. Membership is absolutely free and is open to all BDO individual customers, seven years old and above.

To know more about BDO Rewards, please call BDO Call Center at 631-8000 or Domestic / Provincial Toll Free number 1-800-10-6318000 or visit your nearest BDO branch.

At Banco de Oro, WE FIND WAYS...
TRULY, BANKING HAS NEVER BEEN
THIS REWARDING !

BANKING HAS NEVER BEEN THIS REWARDING!

"I invest my funds with Banco de Oro.
I get the best returns and great rewards.
Iba ang REWARDS dito!"

Pia Guanio
TV Host

Place your money with Banco De Oro Unit Investment Trust Funds now, maximize your returns and start earning points which you can use to redeem real rewards of your choice from any SM affiliate store.

Choose from any of BDO's 6 Unit Investment Trust Funds or set up a Living Trust Account. The bigger your investments, the more points you get! You not only maximize the yields on your money, you also earn extra with rewards points!

Open any BDO Savings and Current Account, and avail of BDO's Consumer Loans to earn points faster!

Plus, every reward point you earn until January 31, 2006 is equivalent to one raffle entry in the BDO Rewards All Year Free-Shopping Raffle!

BDO Unit Investment Trust Funds:

- BDO ₱ Money Market Fund
- BDO $ Money Market Fund
- BDO ₱ Bond Fund
- BDO $ Bond Fund
- BDO Fixed-Income Fund
- BDO Balanced Fund

BDO Rewards

We find ways

* For BDO Rewards program details, contact the BDO Call Center at 631-8000, Domestic Toll Free # 1-800-10-631-8000 or visit any Banco de Oro Branch near you. Points system is subject to the terms and conditions of the BDO Rewards program.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2878, Series of 2005.

I-Teach, I-Care program launched in Cebu

INNOVE COMMUNICATIONS, THE WHOLLY OWNED subsidiary of Globe Telecom, launched its I-Teach, I-Care in Bitoon Vocational High School in Dumanjug, Cebu this September. Volunteer employees from Innove taught students various computer applications and the significance of the Internet as a tool to access information.

With the main objective of sharing the gift of education through internet literacy, employees of Innove shared their time, talent, knowledge and skills as they taught the public high school students. The program is in line with Innove's CSR thrust of youth development and ICT education.

Racquel Cagurangan, chief administrative officer of Innove, said that via employee volunteerism, the company can take pride in achieving things for their corporate social responsibility program. "To date, about 10 percent of Innove's workforce signed up to volunteer for the said project," Cagurangan discloses.

I-Teach, I-Care stands for information technology (IT) and Innove Communications (IC). Information technology, which is the core competency of the company, will be given focus on the said project, and Innove Communications, being a company that cares enough for the Filipinos.

The program will be done in public high schools where Internet access was provided by Innove. Employee volunteers will take center stage in transferring their knowledge in basic Internet and in their other field of expertise.

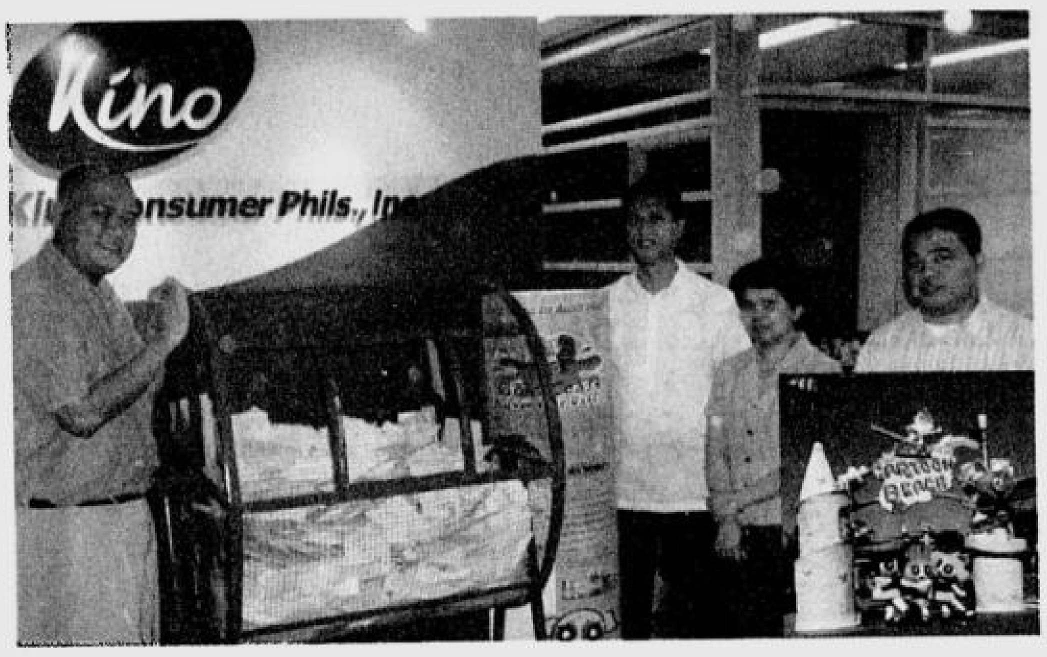
During the launch, three employee volunteers took turns in sharing their knowledge to the fortunate students of Bitoon Vocation High School, Michelle Ysmael talked about Basic Internet, Joy Ramos shared her knowledge on the Internet Reference Guide, and Clinton Selga tackled Imaging. When some of the students were asked about the program, they were unanimous in saying that "the program gives more information about the Internet" and "the topics were so interesting and challenging to us because some people say that the Filipinos are a little 'slow' or 'backward' when it comes to technology, which is not true."

The I-Teach, I-Care program is not only beneficial to the students but also to the volunteers. "It was a very fulfilling experience, which made us (volunteers) in Innove realize that there is still much to be done in improving the public high school education system," expressed Clint, one of the volunteers.

Innove provided Bitoon Vocation High School Internet access for free under the Coca-Cola ed.venture project. The school was also the first to be given free Internet access by Innove.

Through Innove's employee volunteerism program, the company hopes to stir up its human resources to view corporate social responsibility with a sense of achievement, enthusiasm, and pride.

STUDENTS of Bitoon Vocation High School are all eyes and ears during the launch of the I-Teach, I-Care program.



B&B GOLD COAST ADVENTURE RAFFLE WINNERS DRAWN

Kino Consumer Philippines, makers of Ellips Cologne, Ellips Moisturizing Radiance Body Oil and Intense Cologne, concluded its kids line promo 'B&B Kids Gold Coast Adventure' Sept. 30. B&B Kids Range is a variety of products specially made for kids. Nicely packaged with fun and popular characters such as the Powerpuff Girls and Looney Tunes, this range offers shampoo, cologne, powder and foamy body wash to make bath time more fun for kids. B&B raffled off a 4-night trip for two, inclusive of plane fare, hotel accommodations, US$300 pocket money and free admission to four of the best theme parks Australia has to offer: Australia's Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World, Paradise Country, Aussie Farm Tour and Wet n' Wild Water World. The draw was conducted Oct. 10 in Kino Consumer Philippines head office in Sucat, Paranaque. The grand prize winner was Susan Joy B. De Leon of Pasig City. Shown at the raffle draw were, from left, Jason Andujar, Kino finance manager Ed Fernandez, Bobby Vertucio, DTI representatives Anna Bathan and Henry Tolentino. Shown inset are the Powerpuff Girls at Australia's Sea World.

Valsartan approved treatment for heart attack survivors

VALSARTAN, A MEDICINE FOR HIGH BLOOD pressure, has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a new indication to reduce death in people who survived a heart attack.

The FDA also expanded the drug's heart failure labeling. Valsartan, a type of blood pressure medicine known as angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB), can now be prescribed in a broader range of heart failure patients and is no longer limited to those who do not respond ACE inhibitors.

Valsartan is now the only agent in its class across the world indicated to treat high blood pressure, high-risk heart attack survivors and people with heart failure. The US approval follows shortly after marketing authorizations were granted for valsartan in 14 EU member states and other countries around the world to treat people who survived a recent heart attack and people with heart failure. The same indications have been approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) in the Philippines.

High blood pressure, a disease which affects 1 billion people globally, greatly increases the risk of suffering a heart attack or developing heart failure. People who have suffered a heart attack are at greater risk of repeat attacks or death and may also progress to heart failure. In fact, within six years, nearly one-third of heart attack survivors will be disabled with heart failure, a progressive condition in which the heart's muscle weakens after injury from other cardiovascular conditions such as a heart attack or high blood pressure.

The approvals of valsartan to reduce cardiovascular death in high-risk heart attack survivors are based on the results of Valiant (Valsartan In Acute myocardial iNfarcTion), which compared valsartan vs captopril (an ACE inhibitor) vs the combination of both in 14,703 patients at high risk for death following a heart attack.

In the Valiant trial, valsartan was reported to improve survival and reduce cardiovascular events including recurrent heart attack and hospitalizations for heart failure in these patients. The results of the study were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"Valiant was a tremendous scientific undertaking involving more than 14,000 patients in 24 countries. We are proud it has resulted in the approval of a new treatment to help improve the survival of patients at high risk following a heart attack," said Dr. Marc Pfeffer, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and chair of the Valiant trial.

"Millions of patients already rely on valsartan to help them get to goal and maintain healthier blood pressure goals. Now, based on results from one of the largest megatrial programs in the ARB class, valsartan has demonstrated additional benefits that can address the needs of an even broader spectrum of cardiovascular patients," said Joerg Reinhardt, head of development, Novartis Pharma AG. "We remain committed to developing the full clinical potential of this agent."

Valsartan, a product of Novartis, is available only with a doctor's prescription.

THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE YOURSELF AND OTHERS
THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP

INQUIRER
Executive Seminar Series

Proudly Presents

Francis Kong's

6th
ACHIEVERS &
LEADERS
SEMINAR

December 6, 2005, 8:30 AM to 5:45 PM
SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Francis Kong, best-selling author of "Only the Real Matters" and 10 other books; program host, Business Matters; and sought-after Motivational Speaker

Discover what it takes to be an excellent leader.

6th Achievers & Leaders Seminar
The Power of Ethical Leadership
Draw inspiration. Motivate your team to excel.

ALL-NEW SESSIONS

5 sessions that will change you and your team's lives
- Learn about Authentic Leadership and the 7 qualities of Authentic Leaders.
- Discover what makes a great leader.
- Find out what great leaders and managers can do about unethical leadership.
- Be inspired by true stories of integrity practiced in the workplace.
- Network with the country's best and brightest.

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Academe: **P3,500**
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Featuring:

"The Authentic Leader" by Francis Kong. Learn about authentic leadership and the 7 qualities of authentic leaders through exercises and thought-provoking sessions. Challenge your own core belief systems and see how close you are to becoming or being an Authentic Leader.

"Dealing with Corporate Corruption from the Bottom, Up-Insights and Lessons from 2005 Executives Attitudes on Corporate Corruption" by Dr. Ned Roberto, Chairman & President, Roberto & Associates, Inc. [illegible]

"The Anatomy of a Leader" by Yoly Ong, Chair, Campaigns and Grey. [illegible]

"Leadership and Integrity" by Alex Castillo, [illegible]

Rave Reviews for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Achievers and Leaders Seminar:

"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team?"
- Stephen Musa, Microsoft

"Excellent! Inspiring and very relevant in everyday life."
- Ana Estabillo, Heidelberg Philippines

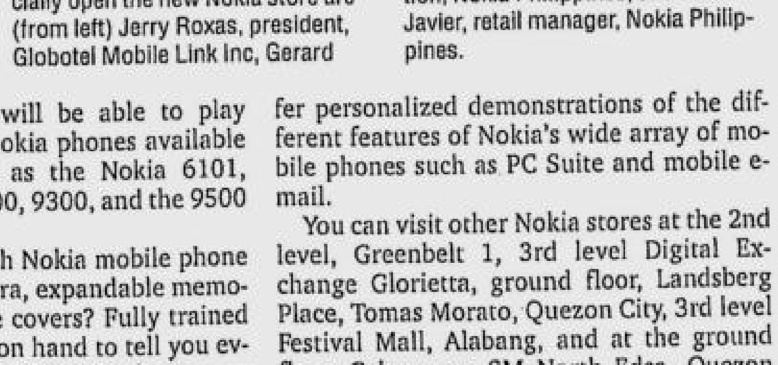
"Very INSPIRING! Powerful!"
- Ton Magtoto, Prulife UK.

"This is one of the best training I have attended. The speakers are great!"
- Emily Honquilada, Gladden ABC Inc. - Penshoppe

Nokia opens retail stores

ROBINSONS PLACE Manila and Gateway Mall in Quezon City are the newest locations to the latest hip and stylish Nokia Stores. Both stores feature visually appealing designs and offer the latest trends and innovations from Nokia.

The new Nokia stores, which both take up 70 sqm, are located at the 3rd level of Robinsons Place Manila and at the 4th level of Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao.



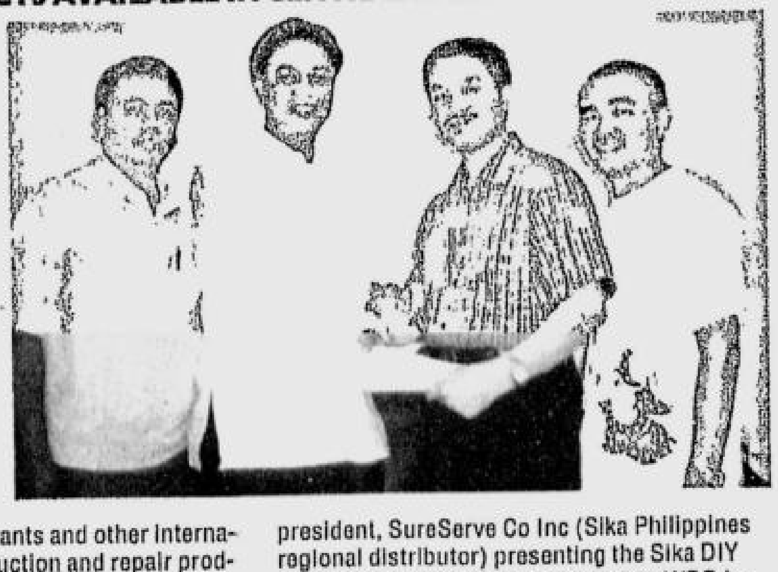
HEADING the ribbon cutting to officially open the new Nokia store are (from left) Jerry Roxas, president, Globotel Mobile Link Inc, Gerard Yusay, head of retail and distribution, Nokia Philippines, and Ricci Javier, retail manager, Nokia Philippines.

Nokia enthusiasts will be able to play around with all the Nokia phones available in the market, such as the Nokia 6101, 6230i, 6680, N90, 8800, 9300, and the 9500 Communicator.

Want to know which Nokia mobile phone has a megapixel camera, expandable memory, or interchangeable covers? Fully trained Nokia Specialists are on hand to tell you everything else there is to know about your preferred Nokia mobile phone. They also offer personalized demonstrations of the different features of Nokia's wide array of mobile phones such as PC Suite and mobile e-mail.

You can visit other Nokia stores at the 2nd level, Greenbelt 1, 3rd level Digital Exchange Glorietta, ground floor, Landsberg Place, Tomas Morato, Quezon City, 3rd level Festival Mall, Alabang, and at the ground floor, Cyberzone, SM North Edsa, Quezon City.

SIKA DIY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN CENTRAL LUZON



Various construction Sika DIY products backed by 100 years of superior Swiss technology at Pinoy prices are now available in leading hardware stores in the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija. Previously available only to huge infrastructure projects worldwide, SikaCeram tile adhesives and grouts, Aquablock and Sikalite for waterproofing, Multiseal sealants and other internationally certified construction and repair products can now be bought by any home or building owner. This has been made possible by the recent appointment of WDR Industries Corp as the exclusive distributor in these provinces. Shown is Nicanor Manzano (2nd from left), president, SureServe Co Inc (Sika Philippines regional distributor) presenting the Sika DIY provincial distributor's agreement to WDR Industries Corp general manager Mariano Chua (2nd from right), as WDR Industries Corp treasurer William del Rosario (right) and SureServe vice president Guillermo Reyes look on.

Country...

From page B2-2

reaching ramifications in the way companies build brands.

Among the key points are that industrialization coupled with urbanization is driving the pace of life such that Asians are experiencing higher levels of pressure and stress than ever before.

Also, the markets have an appreciation of family and cultural values, notwithstanding that modernization is breaching these values. Asians aspire for affluence, abundance, and success but balk at the excessive stresses that come with these.

Another interesting finding is that although the Asian market generally appreciates advertising, they can also be skeptical about the veracity of advertising messages.

According to Amour, the key to building a strong brand that will stand tall in this changing market is to keep in step with the changing cultural values all over the world.

Now more than ever, he says, it is important for a company to build a corporate image that is aligned with cultural values.

"Marketing is now in the business of building 'cultural brands.' The company is as important as the brand. Brand value is tied to values and ethics. Corporate reputation is converging with branding," Amour says.

By cultural brands, he means that effective advertisements contain emotional elements that reflect local culture. This is the key to eliciting trust from consumers and once trust is gained, it simplifies the consumers' purchase decisions.

"It's not that they want a simple life. It's that they want to simplify their life. They do not want to be burdened by so many choices. They want to buy something familiar that they are comfortable with," he says of the Asian consumer.

Amour, however, cautions that cultural sensitivities run deep and that when these cultural sensitivities are offended the retribution can be swift.

Housing

From page B2-3

volatile financial markets, AB Capital registered a strong performance for the first three quarters of 2005, with net income of P 56 million for the period January to September 2005.

Other opportunities

We are also taking a more serious look at prospects in the hospitality area, in particular a possible chain of tourism and business oriented affordable but high quality hotels in key cities throughout the Philippines.

We believe that if business and tourism are to prosper in our country, tourists and businessmen must have access to affordable hotels all over the country whose safety, cleanliness and consistent quality they can count on wherever they are.

In this context, we are expanding our currently modest chain of Microtel Inns and Suites from our current four locations—Baguio; Sto. Tomas, Batangas; Eagle Ridge in Cavite and Luisita in Tarlac—initially to Boracay, Cabanatuan, Tagaytay and Laoag, and eventually to most of the provinces in the Philippines.

By the simple principle of locating Microtels in areas with ready access to restaurants and serving free coffee and breakfast pastries in our lobbies, we have eliminated the need to operate food and beverage facilities in our hotels, thus significantly reducing our construction and operating costs, and expenditures for capital equipment. Microtels are operated with a minimal staff of 13 to 15 persons. Because Microtel rooms are not carpeted and are designed to be spacious while being relatively smaller, Microtel housekeepers clean 20 rooms each per day, compared to the 14 that housekeepers at five-star hotels can do.

These efficiencies, plus the relatively low construction cost, allow Microtel to charge room rates of only $30-35 per day.

In further pursuit of our mission of giving Filipinos improved access to the essentials of a dignified life, we are open to opportunities in other fields.

We have taken an initial look into the medical services field, and we remain open to a possible investment given the appropriate opportunity. We are also interested in exploring possible opportunities in the field of medical tourism, where our neighbors—Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia—have become very successful in recent years.

Conclusion

I think it is important to stress that in charting our future course, we have chosen businesses that contribute to national development, but are also somewhat insulated from the risks brought about by globalization.

We are concentrating on businesses that are hopefully not overly vulnerable to the ups and downs of the Philippine economy or to the vagaries of Philippine politics. We are also focusing on businesses where our key strengths, particularly as reputable professional managers, can be brought to bear to give us a strategic edge.

In charting our new course, we are proceeding from a fundamental belief that private business has a distinctive role to play in our country's development.

It should be painfully clear to all of us that we cannot rely solely on our government to put our country firmly on the path of growth and progress.

There is a vital role for private business to play, and yes, we fulfill that role by running businesses that generate profits and create jobs. But I believe we perform it even better when we make a business out of addressing our people's basic needs.

At Phinma, this is the path we have chosen for ourselves.

By so doing, we sincerely hope not only to be at the forefront of our country's efforts towards development but also to directly affect the lives of our countrymen who wish only to believe as we do that "Life Can Be Better."

The lady was a leader

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

FOUR YEARS AGO, THE WORLD LOST a great leader.

Mary Kay Ash, the founder of the cosmetics empire that bears her name, died on Nov. 22, 2001. I never had the privilege of meeting Mary Kay, but I've read her books and I've talked to people who knew her.

And everything I've learned confirmed what I already believed—that she was the picture of an exemplary leader.

Mary Kay started her company in 1963 with her life savings of $5,000 and the help of her 20-year-old son. Her goal then—and to the day she died—was to provide women with an unlimited opportunity for personal and financial success.

She achieved that goal.

Today, the company has over one million independent beauty consultants in more than 30 markets worldwide and is the largest direct seller of skin care products in the United States.

Someone once asked Mary Kay how she succeeded so quickly.

"I was a middle-aged lady, had varicose veins, and I didn't have time to fool around," she replied.

That answer says a lot about Mary Kay's sense of humor and view of life. But I think there's a bit more to the story of her rapid success.

Here are four factors that contributed to Mary Kay's rapid growth.

1. She had a need, and that gave her passion.

I've always said that the seed of a miracle is a need, and that was definitely true in Mary Kay's case. Remember the last time you wanted to accomplish something great, and you wanted to do it quickly?

Your desire was accompanied by a tremendous sense of urgency, wasn't it? The need inspires the passion.

2. She had an idea, and that gave her potential.

The most important thing in life is a good idea. It's more important than time; it's more important than money.

When it comes to potential for growth, you're only as big as the idea that you possess right now. Mary Kay knew what she wanted to accomplish, and that gave her potential.

3. She made a commitment, and that gave her personal success.

She was willing to put her life savings on the line in order to achieve personal success. It is a fact of life that you can only go as far as your commitment lets you go.

When your commitment level is low, you don't accomplish very much. But when your commitment level is high, you can achieve a great deal.

4. She knew how to lead.

If you don't remember anything else about Mary Kay, remember this: Her ability to lead compounded her success.

With hard work, initiative, discipline and the right skills, everyone has the potential to be a personal success. But only leaders have the potential to compound success. Let me explain what I mean.

You don't compound success by doing what you can do. You compound success by bringing others to your vision and accomplishing that vision through them.

That's exactly what Mary Kay did.

She didn't just have great gifts that enabled her to be a personal success. The lady was a leader, and that's what allowed her to take her vision and pass it on to hundreds of thousands of women all across the globe.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership programs, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

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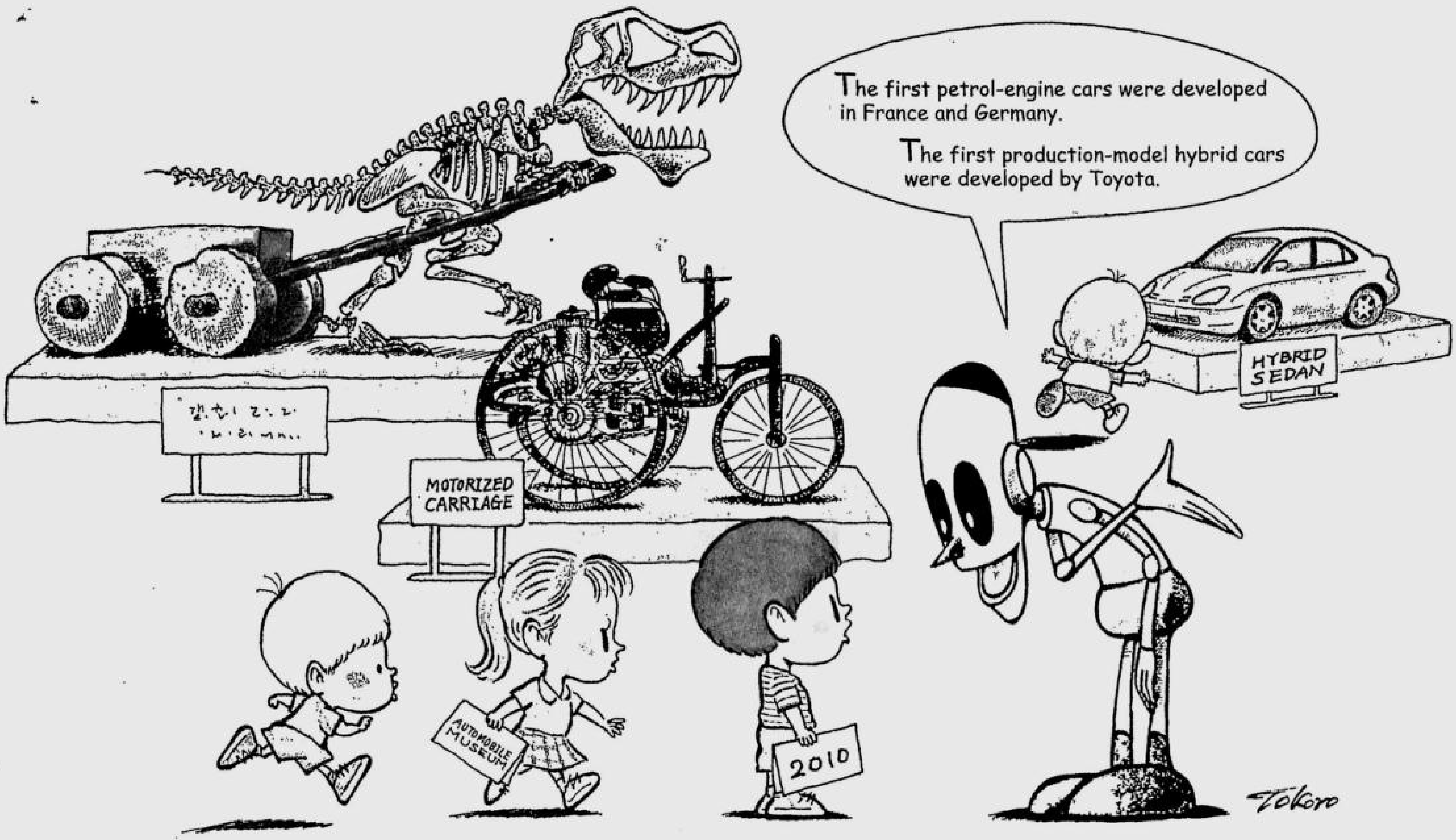
Toyota Technology Journal

Hybrid Innovation 1


The first petrol-engine cars were developed in France and Germany.
The first production-model hybrid cars were developed by Toyota.
MOTORIZED CARRIAGE
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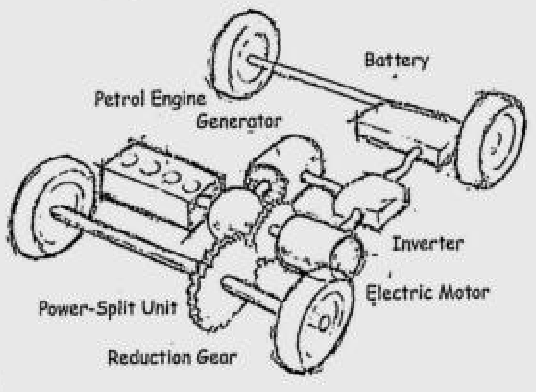
The hybrid era is here.

Toyota's revolutionary petrol-electric hybrid technology combines exhilarating acceleration with eco-friendly 35.5km/litre* performance that helps protect the environment. We've already got hybrid sedans, mini-vans, and SUVs in production, and we'll be offering exciting new hybrid luxury sedans, sports cars, and other vehicles soon.

Toyota hybrid drive—the first production-model drive system to actually recycle energy—is the drive system of the future

Toyota hybrid drive assures powerful standing-starts, and power to spare for exhilarating low-speed and high-speed acceleration. What's more, it uses regenerative braking to convert and recycle kinetic energy into electrical energy that can be stored in the vehicle's battery for later use. It's this advanced hybrid technology that makes the Prius a truly exciting and environmentally friendly car to drive.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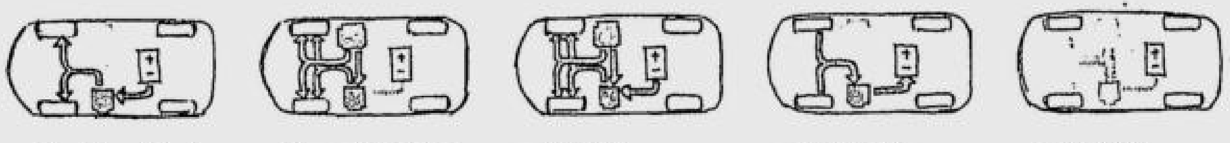

- **Standing Start & Low-Speed Acceleration** The electric motor draws power from the battery, assuring quick starts and superb low-speed acceleration.
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- **Sudden Acceleration** The electric motor draws additional power from the battery to assure maximum power for exhilarating acceleration.
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Car of the Year in both North America and Europe—a "world's first" achievement
When it comes to *Car of the Year* awards, Europe and North America don't often agree. But the Toyota Prius proved its universal appeal by being named 2004 North American *Car of the Year* and 2005 European *Car of the Year*. It's the first car in history to win *Car of the Year* awards on both continents!

*Source: Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport fuel economy tests
Photo: Prius sedan production line

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FRANCISCO Colayco back at the helm of Professional Plans

CEO retires from retirement

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

RETIREMENT FROM THE PRE-need industry was fun for Francisco J. Colayco, who used to sit at the helm of Professional Financial Plans.

He was hitting the public speaking circuit and has earned a reputation for being a financial guru, helping ordinary people get more out of their hard-earned money.

Colayco, however, found himself pulled back into the battered pre-need industry this year because plan holders of Professional Plans, where he remains a shareholder, were in danger of losing their investments in pre-need plans unless drastic changes were made.

The pre-need sector has been rocked by the financial difficulties that brought the biggest players, CAP and Pacific Plans, to their knees.

Other firms, such as Platinum Plans, followed suit.

These firms claimed that they needed a financial lifeline because they could no longer meet tuition fee payments under the open-ended plans because tuition fees have escalated way beyond their financial projections.

Open-ended plans refer to those plans sold until the early 1990s where the pre-need firms assured the full payment of tuition fees upon maturity of the plans, regardless of the cost.

CAP and Pacific, being among the first in the industry, have sold the most number of these open-ended plans, the payment of which have posed too heavy a financial burden to these pre-need companies, they claimed.

To help prevent Professional Plans from sinking in the same boat, Colayco is again chief executive officer of Professional Plans and his new mandate is to convince plan holders to take part in the company's Step-Up program.

The Step-Up program is designed to convert existing plans into common shares in a new financial services company where plan holders will be the major shareholders.

The trust fund currently set up

FINANCE/ B2-2

Revised rule on dividends

Corporate Securities Info

Raul Palabrica

THE ABILITY OF A CORPORATION TO DEclare dividends is generally considered in the business community as a sign of good financial health.

The rule of the thumb is, when a company is doing well, it should share its profits with its stockholders, unless the money is needed to settle some obligations or fund future expansion plans.

It's up to the board of directors to decide whether to spread the wealth, so to speak, by way of cash dividend (the return on investment is given in legal tender dough) or stock dividend (the earnings are converted to shares of stocks).

Section 43 of the Code provides that dividends may be declared "out of the unrestricted retained earnings which shall be payable in cash, in property, or in stock to all stockholders on the basis of outstanding stock held by them."

For stock dividends, the stockholders representing at least two-thirds of the outstanding capital stock must approve the action at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

Liberal treatment

In 1989, the Securities and Exchange Commission, by a 3-2 vote, relaxed the rule on stock dividend declarations.

It allowed stock dividends to be declared and distributed out of premium paid on shares of stocks, subject to certain conditions.

By way of background, a premium arises if, in payment of shares of stocks, a stockholder gives cash or property whose monetary equivalent is higher than the par value of the stocks.

The same thing happens in an "assets-for-stocks" arrangement in a merger where the assets of the absorbed corporation that are exchanged for stocks of the surviving corporation are worth more than the stocks it received from the latter.

The 1989 SEC resolution referred to earlier was made under the following conditions:

- There should be no impairment of capital;
- No creditor is prejudiced in the process;
- It shall apply only to stock dividends.

Review

Last Sept. 20, in the course of the discussion of a corporation's request to increase its capital stock using stock dividends sourced from premium in paid-up capital, the SEC decided to adopt a strict interpretation of Sec. 43 of the Code.

The agency said this provision consists of two parts: a determination of the party authorized to declare dividends (which is the board of directors) and the source of the dividends (unrestricted retained earnings).

Considering that the law uses the word "may" in describing the dividend process, it is clear the lawmakers intended to make the declaration of dividends permissive or discretionary on the part of the board of directors.

The board can choose not to grant dividends in spite of hefty earnings if it thinks that action would be in the best interests of the corporation.

Of course, it risks incurring the ire of the stockholders for the penny-pinching.

Since the law mentions only one source of stock or cash dividends, i.e., unrestricted retained earnings, then no other sources can be tapped or availed of by the corporation to support any dividend declaration.

Thus, the SEC ruled that all stock and cash dividends should be sourced only from unrestricted retained earnings, or "the accumulated profits realized out of normal and continuous operations of the business after deducting therefrom distributions to stockholders and transfers to capital stock or other accounts."

(Send comments or questions concerning this article to rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph)

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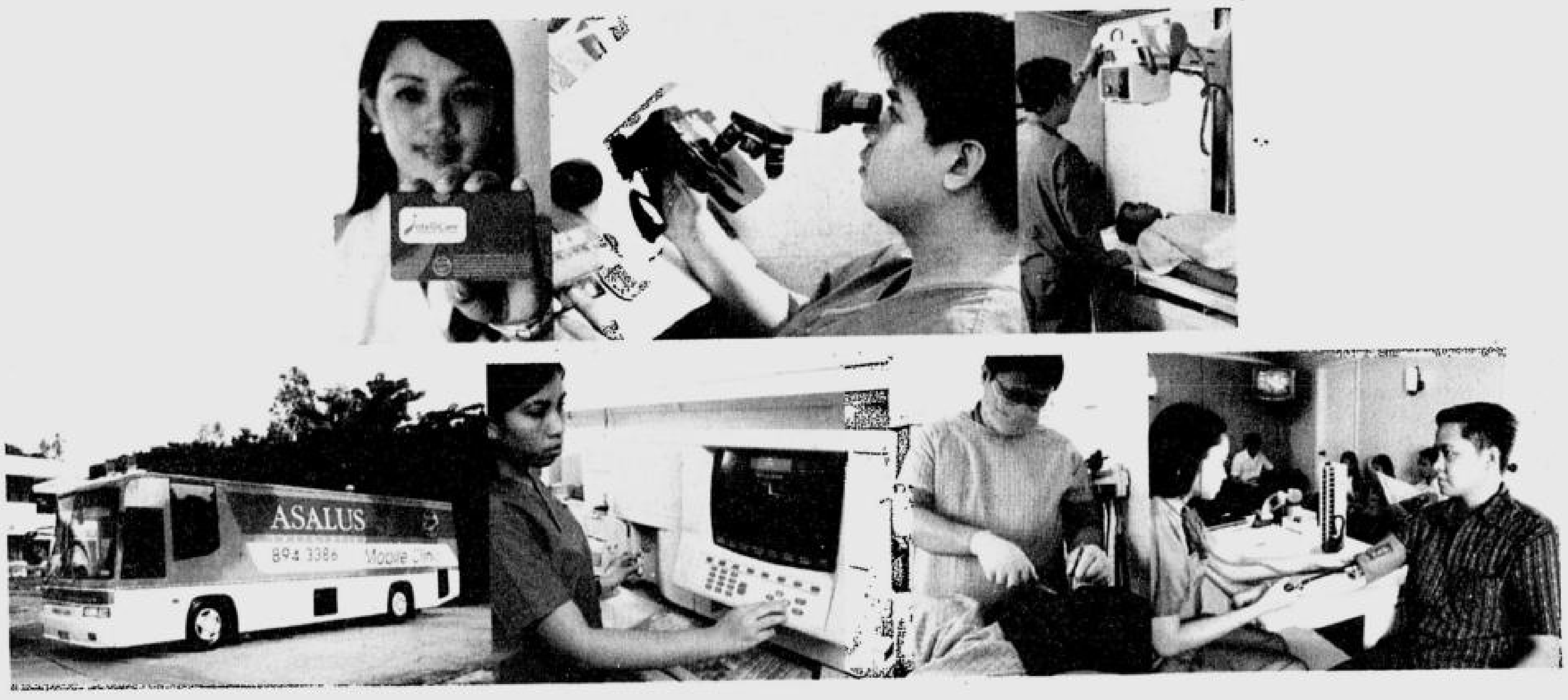

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Engineered eggplants to enter RP market

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

COIMBATORE, INDIA—THE PHILIPpines will adopt the technology used by India in producing a genetically modified, worm-free eggplant as soon as field trials for the crop are finished by next year.

Dr. Desiree Hautea, director of the Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna, and Southeast Asia coordinator of the Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II (ABSP II), said the Philippines would adopt the technology to benefit Filipino farmers and consumers.

India, the world's largest eggplant-producing country, is in the last stages of field tests for the Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) eggplant, also called the fruit and shoot borer-resistant (FSBR) eggplants, in the remote village of Nathagounden in Coimbatore, the second largest city of Tamil Nadu in India.

Dr. Ramasamy Chinnasamy, professor at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's (TNAU) Center for Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology here, said the commercial release of the Bt eggplant was scheduled for late 2006 or early 2007 after the Indian government approves the results of their studies.

A group of journalists from the Philippines, Bangladesh and India visited the Nathagounden plantation last Nov. 14 on the invitation of the ABSP II and its global partners, Cornell University (the Sathguru Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd. manages its task in South Asia) and the UPLB.

The Bt eggplant is genetically engineered to contain a mechanism (Bt gene, Cry1Ac type) against eggplant worm known as the fruit and shoot borer.

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is a soil bacterium that contains protein toxic to several insects, particularly worms that destroy eggplant fruits.

But studies made by Indian biotechnology and plant breeding experts showed that the Bt is not harmful to animals and humans.

Environmental groups, however, have strongly opposed the entry of genetically-modified organisms on grounds that the health benefits have not been fully verified, and could eventually harm humans.

Vijayaraghavan Kannan, SMCPL director, said the ABSP II focuses on the safe and effective development and commercialization of bio-engineered crops to enhance the production and yield of farmers.

Dr. Usha Zehr, joint director of Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Co., said pests, diseases and other environmental factors have been affecting eggplants and other crops, giving farmers a lower volume of harvest.

Farmers also earn less due to the huge expenses for pesticides to stop worms and other pests.

In 2003, ABSP II evaluated the technology used by Mahyco Monsanto Ltd. in Mumbai and concluded that its efforts to incorporate genes from Bt to produce worm-resistant eggplant provided the opportunity for global technology.

Vijayaraghavan said Mahyco's efforts have led to the development of FSBR eggplant in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Mahyco owns and runs the Bt eggplant field station in Nathagounden while the TNAU conducts another field trial in its greenhouse on its campus.

Vijayagrahavan said India's annual eggplant production is 8.2 million metric tons from 510,000 hectares.

He said each hectare of an eggplant farm earns from $2,000 to $3,000 per cropping season. Indian farmers follow three cropping seasons a year.

Eggplant, which is grown year round, is one of the most important vegetables consumed in sub-tropical and tropical countries like India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and China.

In the Philippines, over 20,000 hectares of land are devoted to eggplant production. The annual combined yield reaches more than 179,000 metric tons.

Most eggplant plantations are found in Cagayan Valley, the Ilocos, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Central Visayas and Western Visayas.

AGRICULTURE experts in India are in the final stages of testing a new variety of genetically-modified eggplants.

CHAYOTE plantations are in danger of being wiped out unless the virus problem is solved.
EV ESPIRITU

Plant experts search for chayote virus cure

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province will pay tribute to the chayote, known as the "hanging green gold," on its 105th foundation day this month, but plant experts are scrambling to rescue the province's chayote plantations from being wiped out by two plant viruses.

The Benguet State University, provincial agricultural office and Bureau of Plant Industry have pooled their resources to discover the antidote for the mosaic tymo and squash leaf curl, the two viruses that had infected chayote plants in the towns of Atok, Tublay, Kibungan and La Trinidad.

"The disease caused by the two viruses could kill the entire chayote industry in a matter of time," said Dr. Julio Ligat, director of BSU's Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agro-Forestry.

To save the industry, the BPI has started looking for disease-resistant chayote planting materials, said Dr. Teresita Mangila, BPI research coordinator for the Cordillera.

At least 1,058 hectares of the province's agricultural area are devoted to chayote, producing an average of 28,000 metric tons a year.

Data from the provincial agriculture office showed that 4,542 farmers are cultivating the vegetable in Benguet.

On Nov. 23, the chayote takes center stage as farmers display their best chayote produce in a festival that will also highlight different products produced from the vegetable.

Lolita Bentres, provincial agriculturist, said that to eliminate the viruses, the province's entire chayote plantations must be cleaned and cleared of all present chayote plants to give way to a new virus-resistant plants.

"But this needs the cooperation of the farmers. They should be willing to uproot all their existing plants," she said.

Bentres said experts from the Kochi Prefectural Research Institute in Kochi, Japan also suggested the measure in their recent visit to the province.

Ligat said the farmers' need to improve their practices to prevent the spread of the viruses, like adopting strict quarantine measures and integrated pest management techniques.

Ligat, who first detected the tymo virus in 1996, said the use of sand as bedding for germination purposes and the planting of alnus trees near chayote plantations could help stop the spread of the viruses.

Dr. Jerry Pedro Baliang, Department of Agriculture assistant director for the Cordillera, blamed imported planting materials and the excessive use of chemical farm inputs for the growth of plant viruses in the region, including those found in chayote. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Nenaco sails through rough waters

ABOUT NINE YEARS AGO, BEFORE THE Asian crisis of 1997, Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco), a shipping firm, was fast sinking.

But it got lucky because of the connections of its then chair and chief executive officer Daniel "Bitay" Lacson, who then also chaired the Philippine National Bank.

The involvement of PNB then with the sale of a huge chunk of property at Fort Bonifacio encouraged the entry of Metro Pacific Corp., a subsidiary of First Pacific of Hong Kong.

Metro Pacific won the bid for the property and ended up buying into Nenaco, which operates shipping routes in Western Visayas, Mindanao and Manila.

Metro Pacific brought in $100 million to Nenaco, a bold move considering that it had no previous experience in the shipping industry.

A British accountant, Robin Arrowsmith, came in and became the caretaker of Metro Pacific's investment in Nenaco.

Arrowsmith, however, was not popular among his staffers and subordinates.

Nenaco suffered another setback during the Asian crisis of 1997. The firm ended up cash strapped again.

In 2000, Metro Pacific hired a team of experts in the hope of turning the company around.

One is a Scot named Seumas Gallacher. He used to work in Hong Kong with First Pacific and was assigned to the Philippines. He married a Filipina from Pangasinan.

He was also unpopular among the staff, so much so that key managers opted to leave the company.

The penchant of the investors for hiring foreign stewards for the Nenaco went on, and did not end with Seumas.

Next to come in was John Lea Smith, reputedly a logistics expert.

A third expat who came in was New Zealander Gary Anderson, who was put in charge of the firm's operations and logistics.

Anderson, said Nenaco insiders, became the point man for Seumas and Lea Smith.

Another expat who came into the picture, although just for a short while, was George Cottrell, an American who was hired to run Nenaco's ship management division.

But Anderson left ahead of his fellow expats.

The day came, however, for Metro Pacific to terminate all the services of the expats because Nenaco was driven to the brink of bankruptcy.

Nenaco eventually filed for receivership and now has a new management team.

It is now headed by Sulpicio Tagud Jr., former director of the Public Estates Authority, who became famous for being the whistle blower in the overpriced Macapagal Boulevard.

Nenaco is still riding on rough waters, but hopes are high that it will eventually weather the storm.

Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc. President Erramon Aboitiz gives to Alynah Angelique Alfon of the Science and Technology Education Center, Lapu-Lapu City her annual scholarship allowance. Trustee Steve Paradies waits to give her an AGFI backpack. Looking on are DepEd Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo and Dr. Carolino Mordeno, DepEd Regional Director.

CEO retires from retirement

From page B3-1

to pay the pre-need plans as they fall due will be converted into equity in the proposed investment holding company.

Colayco personally does the rounds of seminars and discussions with plan holders hosted by Professional in key branches nationwide to explain the merits of signing up for the Step-up program.

"I thought that since I am giving financial advice to other people, I should do even more for the plan holders," Colayco tells Business Monday.

Colayco has done some 50 presentations and is psyching himself up to do even more.

There are as many plan holders who are against the plan, as there are approving it.

Colayco, however, is convinced that there is no other way to solve the problem facing the pre-need firm, or the industry, for that matter.

This message he tries to share with Professional's thousands of plan holders.

And he enjoys the sessions with them as much as coaching Overseas Filipino Workers and ordinary individuals on how to grow their wealth.

So much for retirement, but Colayco says doing what he can for the plan holders is always worth going back to work.

ALI unit unveils new high-rise in Legaspi

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

YOU KNOW YOU'VE WALKED RIGHT into a condominium owner's worst nightmare when you encounter Niagara Falls plumbing in the bathroom, hear the rock band from within supposedly soundproof walls playing a few floors above you, and savor the aroma of your neighbor's "binagoongan," seeping through your unit from next door.

Community Innovations Inc. (CII)—the new Ayala Land Inc. subsidiary that serves the property needs of young families, upcoming professionals and entrepreneurs—is confident that none of its homeowners will ever get to file such complaints.

CII is already on its third year of building low, mid, and high-rise condominiums, as well as townhouses in Makati's central business district and in the outskirts.

According to CII president Bobby Dy, sales have been brisk this year, even breaching the P1-billion mark.

CII was established as a wholly owned subsidiary of Ayala Land so it could focus on a vital market.

The Two Towers

To sustain its growth record, Dy said CII is embarking on a P2-billion, two-tower condominium project dubbed "The Columns Legaspi Village," a sequel to its fast-selling project on Ayala Avenue.

Dy said The Columns Legaspi Village is banking on good location, since it is a block away from the posh Greenbelt and Glorietta malls from the corner of Amorsolo and Arnaiz avenues.

Legaspi Village is a humming part of the central business district, with more than half, or 140, of Makati City's 240 offices located in the village.

The Columns project consists of two towers—41 storeys each—with a total of 780 units sitting on a 3,023-square-meter lot.

Facilities

Dy said The Columns's first tower, consisting of 390 units, will be launched in the first week of November. Construction of the first tower will start in the first quarter of 2006. The second tower, with another 390 units, will be launched by the second quarter of next year.

Each condominium unit measures 30 to 80 square meters and is priced between P2.5 and P10 million a unit.

The Columns Legaspi Village will also boast of facilities to please young urban achievers.

The Columns will feature a swimming pool, sun deck, function rooms, a large play area, guest centers, a kiddie pool, and a supergym, Dy said.

According to Dy, the supergym will be about 450 square meters, "four times bigger than the typical gym, which is 100 to 170 square meters."

Supergym

The "supergym" has two major exercise areas: a strength and cardiovascular area complete with equipment, and a dance studio for aerobics.

Aside from the exercise areas, amenities will also include a spa, sauna and a steam bath.

The Columns Legaspi Village will also feature two guest rooms where residents can ask their guests to stay for the night. This is ideal for those entertaining guests from overseas or from the province. Homeowners are kept from booking their guests in a hotel.

The Columns will also include cafes and restaurants on the ground floor, bringing convenience right on the residents' doorsteps.

"We are confident that (The Columns) will be well received by the market," Dy said.

What to look for

According to Dy, the Ayala Group will bring more than just the promise of convenience into the development. It will also bring a well-trusted name and track record.

In fact, Dy offered tips to buyers when they are out scouting for units.

"Look at the track record of the developer to deliver on what they promised," Dy said. "Look at the way the property is being managed, and if the property maintains its value over time. Second, property maintenance, look at how the property is maintained, who will manage the property after it is turned over. And finally, the after-turnover service."

"One thing that we commit on is delivery," Dy said. "That whatever we tell you during the project period, is what we will deliver. That is reliability."

"We don't just give you the unit and let you take care of it ... we will be there with you long after we have sold you that unit," Dy added. "Ayala has a very strong track record of making sure that if something goes wrong, we will come back and fix it."

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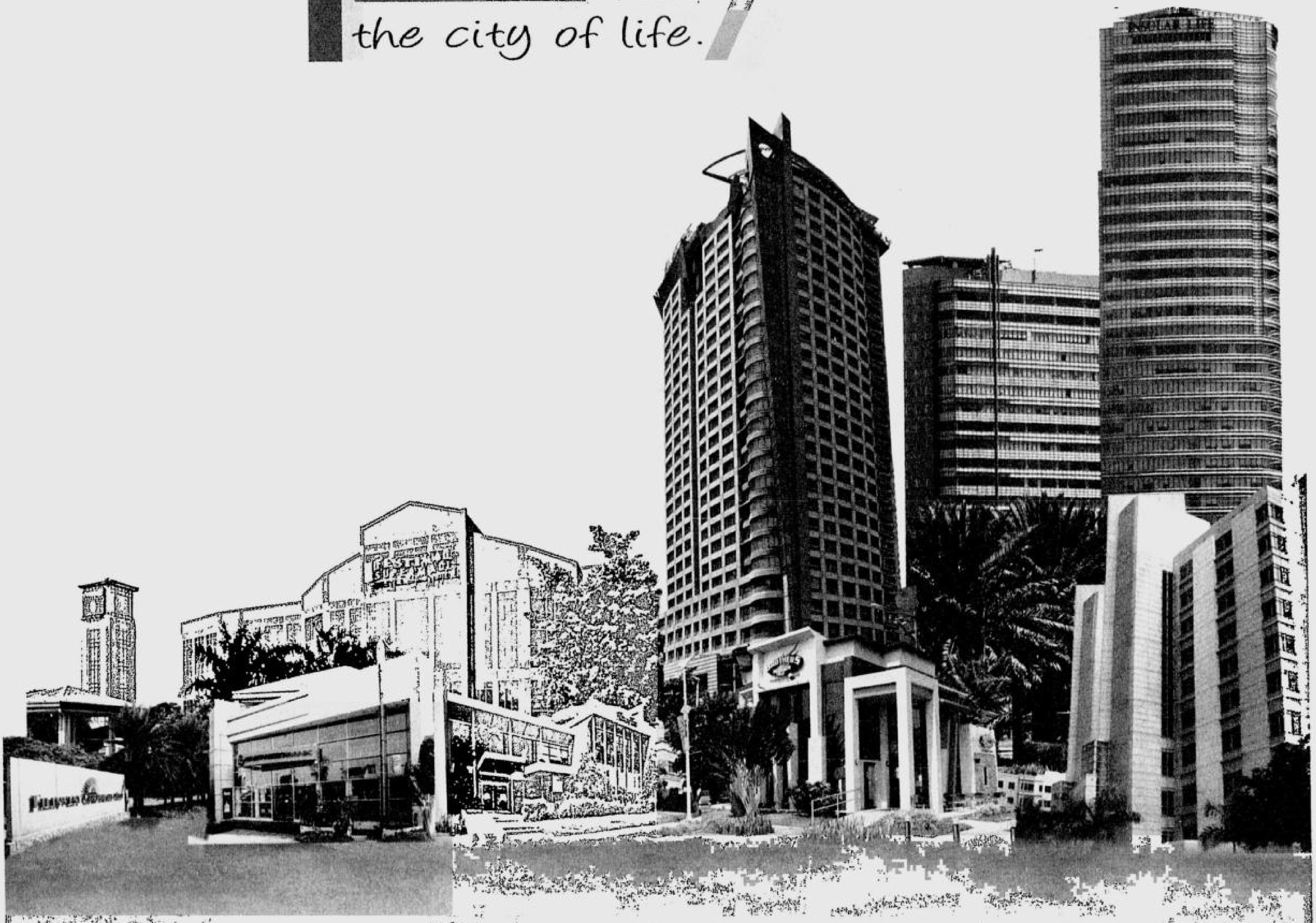

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Celebrating
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North Luzon's P300-M crematorium rises

By Vincent Cabreza and Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, BENGUET—THE BUSINESSMAN-son of Senator Juan Flavier has finally discovered an enterprise his father loves.

Flavier, the barrio doctor-turned-politician, was always serious about his decision to distance himself from his children's business dealings to maintain his reputation, said his son, restaurateur Juanito "Johnet" Flavier.

However, the senator found in Johnet's new crematory and memorial park project (called "Beyond the Sunset") a wealth of material for his jokes.

Flavier has been frequenting this four-hectare property that overlooks the unspoiled mountains of Tuba, Benguet, since Johnet began developing the park in 2004.

But Johnet will allow his father only a joke about his new venture.

Johnet said it had been easy for him to transition from owning "Little John's," a popular Camp John Hay restaurant, to the crematory business because he is quite adept at organizing businesses "that have ovens and menus."

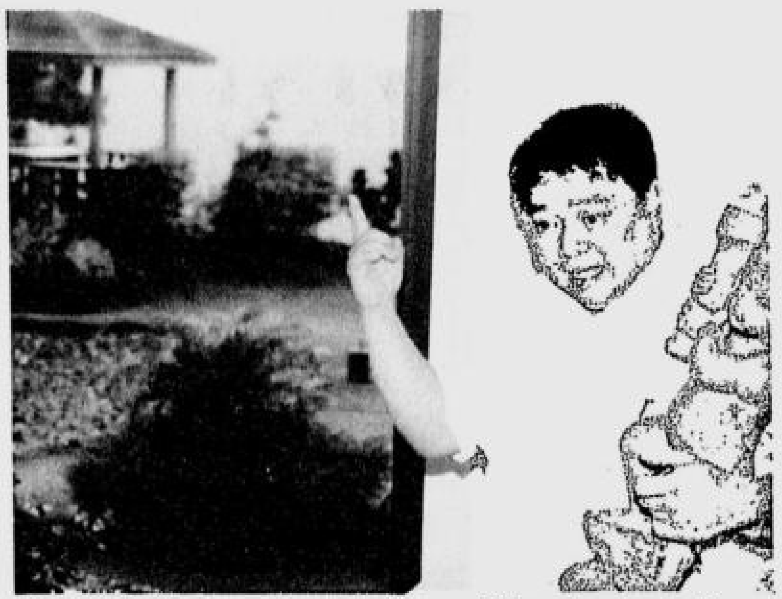
"Beyond the Sunset" is, of course, no joke.

Johnet's P300-million project now involves his three other siblings, and has succeeded in attracting a substantial client base by word of mouth, despite the fact that the park is a work in progress.

The project is only at its first phase, and it has already cost the Flavier children under P45 million to develop this section of Tuba near its boundary with Baguio City, where their father grew up.

Johnet said a professional environmental scan showed that all of Baguio's cemeteries will reach full capacity this year, and the city itself "has no more open spaces to develop new cemetery plots."

So Baguio's alternative, Johnet said, was a European concept that can only be described as crematory mausoleums or columbary, "which is not at all an alien principle for older Filipinos."



JOHNET Flavier, one of the senator's four children, has invested in their new family business, the first modern crematorium in north Luzon. VINCENT CABREZA

Most Spanish colonial churches have vaults filled with the ashes and crushed bones of priests and community leaders, which inspired the more commercial columbary concept, he said.

"Beyond the Sunset" is roughly a 20 to 30-minute drive from downtown Baguio. Its biggest draw so far is a modern crematory that services Northern Luzon.

Only three major crematories operate in the region, Flavier said, but his equipment can process the dead in under two hours for an average cost of P14,000, using no more than two 50-kg tanks of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

He said that in ordinary crematories, the process takes four to six hours.

The closest crematory for families in Baguio, the Cordillera, the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley is in Dagupan City.

"The price alone for cremation is cost-effective. I won't go out and say cremation is the cheapest [option], but this price is small compared to how much families really spend on their dead, from expenses incurred in the morgue, the funeral parlor and the cemetery plot," Johnet said.

But the Flavier children's real investment is in the columbary.

Anterooms lead to two levels of the columbary, which is strategically placed to catch the rays of the sun during sunrise and sunset.

The columbary contains multiple "apartment rooms," which can contain the ashes of a whole family for at least P400,000.

Johnet has also introduced homegrown concepts to the mausoleum.

A few meters from the central columbary is a Filipino kubo (hut), the base of which is actually a small columbary for families.

Across this unique columbary is space reserved for another hut, but it will be raised using the Cordillera design.

"I wanted to introduce Baguio concepts to the columbary to make this concept accessible to the local market," Johnet said.

Another columbary is called the "tree of life," which is an actual pine tree.

The roots are enveloped with concrete columbary apartment spaces.

Johnet acts as president for the family corporation, and he says this fact "is already ironic."

He admits he is the family's biggest "coward," and the death business was the last project he expected to be involved with.

Flavier said he only overcame his fears by a marathon viewing of the television series "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

"The series shows people being cut up, so it helped me overcome my fear of blood," he said.

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November 27, 2005 at GLOBAL CITY from 12nn to 4pm/6pm-12mn

MOVEMENTS

Electrolux Philippines names new GM

ELECTROLUX PHILIPPINES, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Electrolux Group, recently named Thomas G. Hong as its new general manager.

Prior to his appointment, Hong was based in Singapore as the fabric care category director for Electrolux Major Appliances Asia Pacific with responsibilities for sales and marketing activity in the Southeast Asia region including Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and the Philippines.

He also served as vice president for sales and trade marketing for Electrolux Major Appliances Asia Pacific Singapore from May to December 2004.

Before joining Electrolux, Hong was previously the sales and marketing manager for Sony Singapore assigned to oversee business development in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bhutan.

Shipping firm has new execs

AVANTGARDE SHIPPING Corp. has appointed Romulo H. Borsoto and Ma. Margaret Golda G. Rebamontan as president/CEO and executive vice president of the company, respectively.

The former replaced Teodora G. Pascual who retired effective Sept. 30, 2005 after serving the company for almost 20 years.

Prior to his appointment, Borsoto had served as consultant to various Asian Development Bank projects conducted here and abroad.

He also owned and managed a research and consultancy firm that did projects with local manufacturing/service companies and educational institutions. He also occupied various managerial positions in both the government and private sectors.

Rebamontan, the daughter of the late founder/owner, joined the company two years ago after completing her baccalaureate degree in Assumption College in Makati.

Winsource forms management team

CALL CENTER firm WinSource Solutions, Inc. has put together a new management team.

Members are Anna Karenina C, Soliman, Director for Operations; Celina C. Recto, Director for Finance; Renato D. Nayona, Director for Human Resource and Organizational Development and Jorge G. Manasala, Director for Quality and Compliance.

Prior to joining Win Source Solutions, Soliman was Vice President for Call Center Operations and Vice President for Implementation and Management for a business in the call center industry.

Her core competencies include call center build-out, program implementation, call center operations, quality assurance and training and client services.

Recto, on the other hand, brings with her an extensive background in accounting and financial management. A registered Certified Public Accountant, she has work worked in various industries such as insurance/finance, manufacturing/industrial, and, in the past eight years the call center industry.

Nayona, in charge of human resources and organization development, has 17 years of experience in training, organizational development and human resource management.

Manansala covers the quality and compliance functions for the organization. He has handled quality functions for the past seven years and is a registered ISO Assessor and COPC 2000 Coordinator.

He handled the Service Quality Section of one top foreign commercial bank since 1995. With his exposure in banking, Manansala brings along his experience in process audits, compliance and process controls to the new organization.

Managing Director Butsumyo, on the other hand, has been involved in the Philippine outsourcing call center industry since 1996, starting up one of the first outsource providers in the country.

He has 20 years experience in information technology, call center technology and operations and general management.

LIFESTYLE

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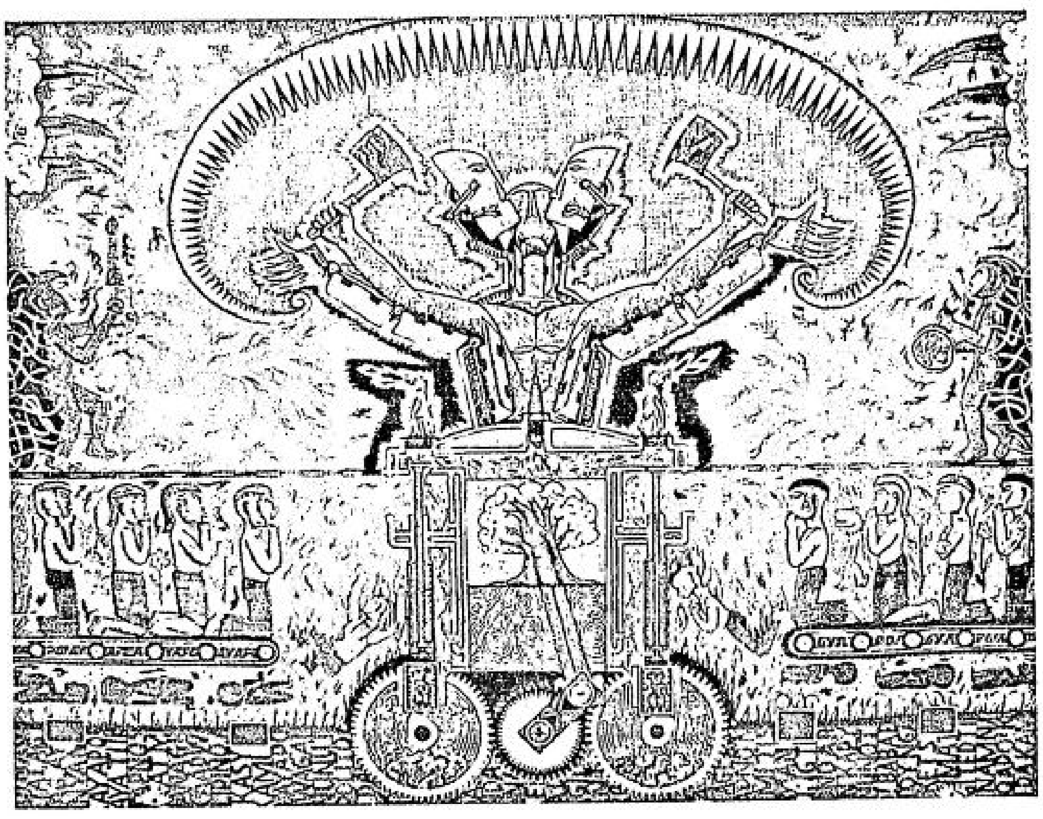


"GERMINATION"

Our nation's follies captured in ethnic furies

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

BORN AND BRED IN Baguio, of Ilocano lineage, Leonard Aguinaldo has continually explored ethnic identity and the indigenous world in his works.

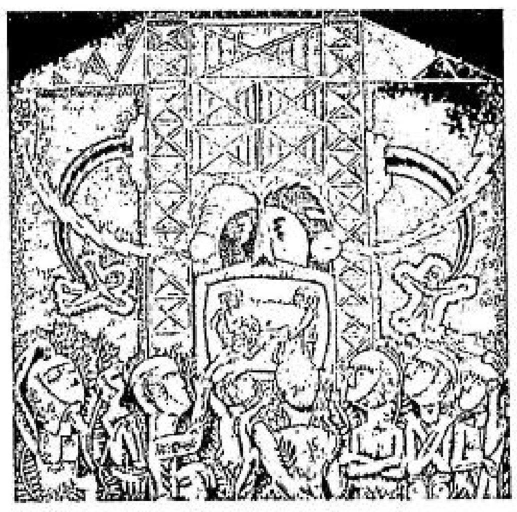
In past shows, he pushed the borders of mixed media, particularly the use of hand-colored carved rubber, an ersatz canvas on which to configure his personal insights on history, religion and ethnicity vis-à-vis the national life.

The Asean Art Awards grand prize winner last year, Aguinaldo has lately surveyed the national scene, emerging with critical views of the body politic, the powers that-be from the various sectors—political, religious and economic—and their henchmen and minions.

The shift in the artist's evolution is the result of his continuous probe into the strange admixture of religion and politics in this country inhabited by various ethno-linguistic groups, a people that continue to revel in their image as the only Christian country this side of the world.

The exhibit is titled "Ay Apo!

OUR NATION'S/ C3



"PINOYLITIK"

> He depicts a people moving closer to salvation, or perdition

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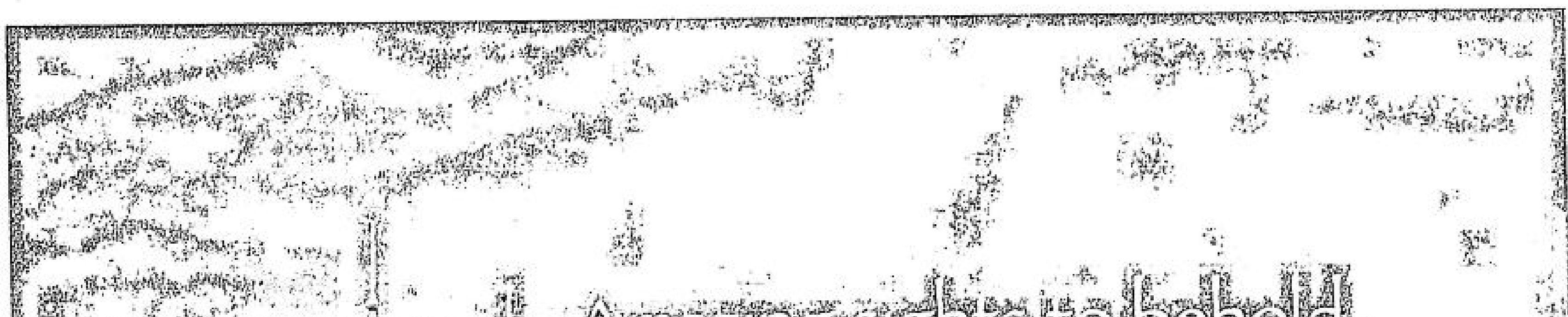

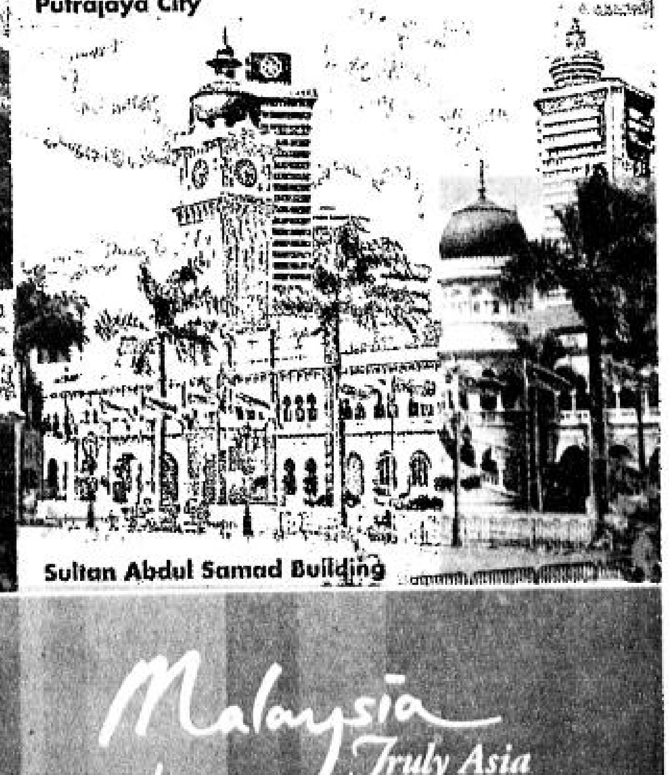
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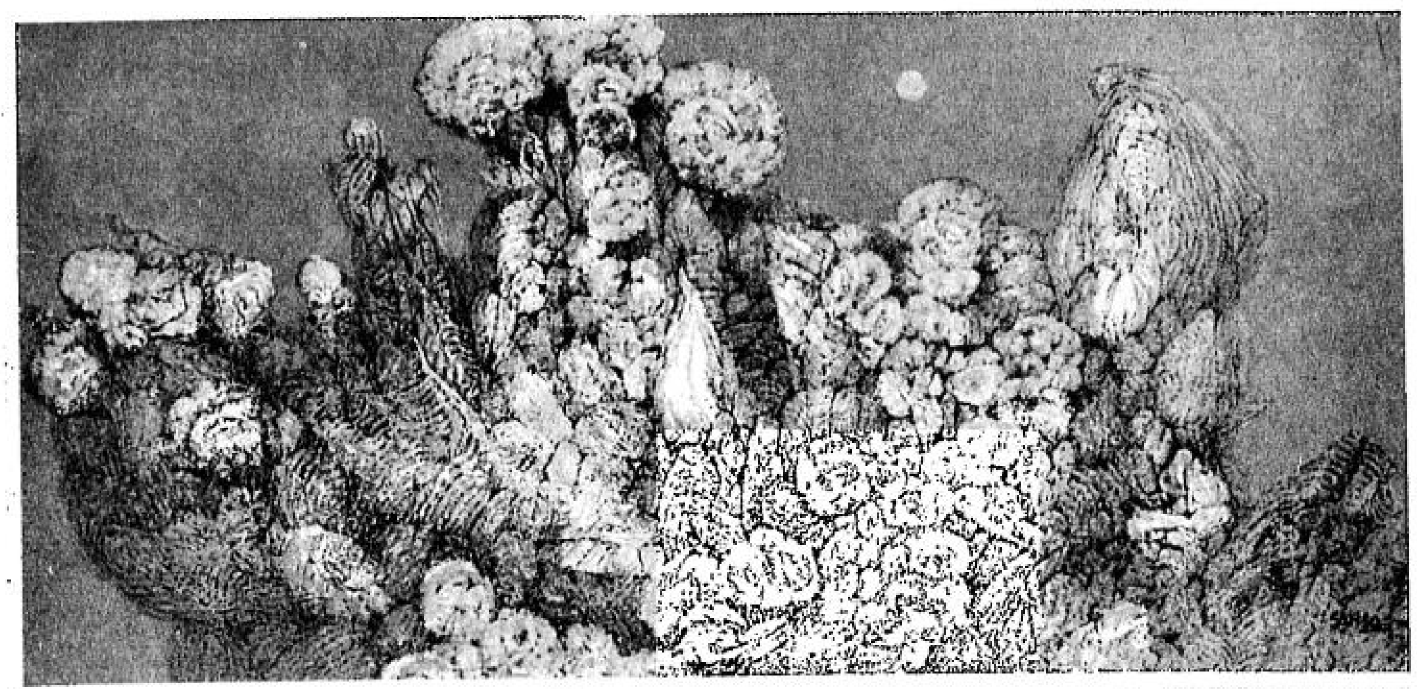


"ABIDING Memories"

Cheers for Sansó

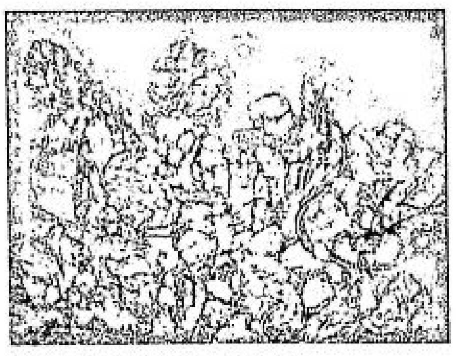
By Jack Teotico
Contributor

ON OCT. 9, SANSÓ'S 29" X 38" work "Felicidad" (Happiness) was bidded out during the 20th-anniversary auction of Southeast Asian art of Sotheby's in Singapore. There was inspired bidding and the work settled at double the original estimate.

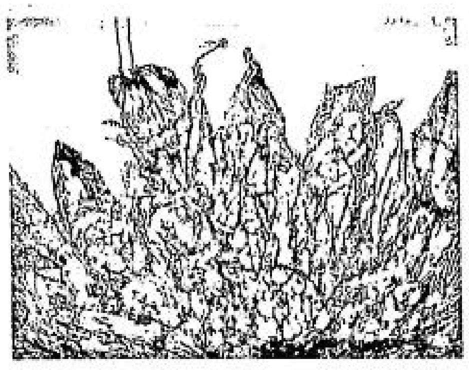
To celebrate the sale and pay tribute to the artist, Galerie Joaquin will hold a show of Sansó's works, "Felicitations," on Nov. 26 at the Main Activity Center, 2/F The Podium.

Modesty has always been one of Sansó's most endearing qualities. An artist who grew up in the Philippines, he has become an internationally renowned artist whose works are in the top museums in the world.

He also holds the distinction of being adjudged first-prize winner in the 1964 Cleveland Museum of Art competition for his work "Leuers." Previous winners were Salvador Dali and Henri Matisse.



"BOUNDLESS Energies"



"RADIANCE of Morning"

His works are represented in the collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Cleveland Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum, Smithsonian Institute, Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of New York, Musee d'Art Moderne in Paris, Rosenwald National Gallery of Washington, art collection of the City of Paris, Royal Academy of Madrid and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

His collectors include the Rothschild family, Nelson Rockefeller, Vincent Price, Elsa Schiaperelli, Jean Cocteau, Prince Michel of Greece, Princess Chubhot of Thailand, Joseph Pulitzer Jr. and the Soeharto family of Indonesia.

Awards and distinctions came early to Sansó, whose family moved to Manila from Catalunia, Spain, in 1933. He studied at the UP School of Fine Arts and the University of Santo Tomas.

In 1951, he won the grand prizes for both oil and watercolor in the Art Association of the Philippines contest.

Recently he was chosen among 11 artists from the Philippines whose works were featured in the 20th-anniversary auction of Southeast Asian art by Sotheby's. The other artists were National Artists Fernando Amrsolo, H.R. Ocampo, Ang Kiukok and Arturo Luz, Romeo Tabuena, and the Old Master, Felix Resurrecion Hidalgo.

Despite the achievements, Sansó remains self-deprecating.

"Laurels are good only for *adobo* but not on one's brow if taken seriously," he said, in jocular reference to the spice leaf usually added to the famous Filipino dish.

Although he has now decided to come home permanently to the Philippines, Sansó says his stay in Paris helped him put things in the proper perspective.

"It has helped keep you very modest. Some of the best museums in the world are just a metro or a bus ride away. You can see a Cezanne, a Vermeer, a Velasquez, a Goya—and seeing all these great masters can really cut you down to size."

In Paris, Sansó would start working at 7 a.m.

"When I work, I work like a brute," he said, working punishing 10- to 12-hour workdays in Paris.

He usually worked long hours during summer, when there was longer available light, or until his arms felt like falling apart and his eyes ached from the strain.

During winter, it would become difficult to work by mid-afternoon as there was less light, so he would usually concentrate on drawing.

As a tribute to this hardworking and highly talented artist, his collectors and friends have decided to put together a show of their favorite Sansó works.

"Felicitations" will feature 40 works of the artist, who turns 76 this Nov. 26. Twenty-four works will come from collectors while the rest will come from Galerie Joaquin's collection.

There will be a preview of the works on Nov. 24. Call 7239253, 7239418 or 6347954. Visit www.galeriejoaquin.com.

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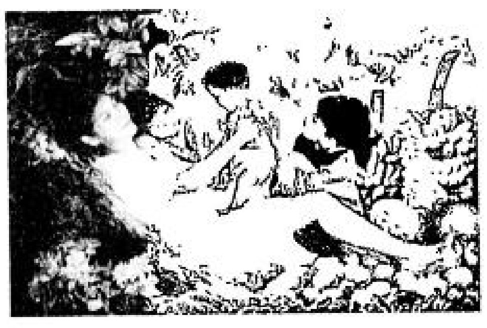
4 artists celebrate life in 'Circle of Life'



"GOLDEN Harvest," Michael P. Blanco

THE "CIRCLE OF LIFE" IS AN EXHIBIT OF four artists, three from Angono and one from Bacolod.

The strong use of colors, of dark and heavy backgrounds before the vibrant and sharply featured women distinguishes the works of Felix Amoncio.

The rich and sun-drenched angular subjects of Jun Espiritu depict the Filipino family in their honest day's labor and other social activities that hold them together.

The romantic realism of Michael Blanco is a trademark of the Blanco family art tradition. The subjects seem to leap out of the canvas, conveying the spirit of the hardworking and resilient Filipino family. Michael is the son of the Angono master, José Blanco.

The realist-impressionist style of Mitchell Doren endows her subjects with charm and life: pastel flowers and leaves that sway to the breeze, dappled trees and forests, and serene waters.

"Circle of Life" opens tonight at the Philamlife Center, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila. It will run for 15 days.

MICHAEL Blanco, Felix Amoncio, Jun Espiritu and Mitchell Doren

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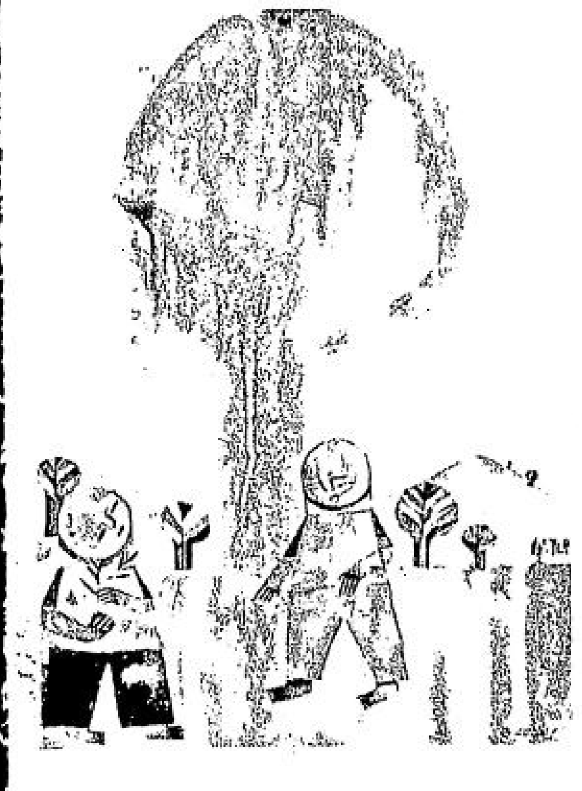
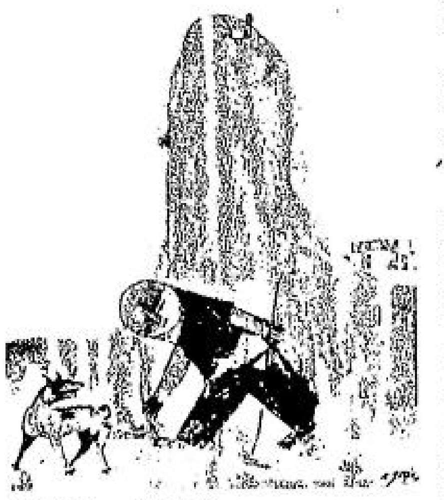
Romeo Forbes in watercolor and graphite



"GREEN Dream"



"OUT for a Walk"

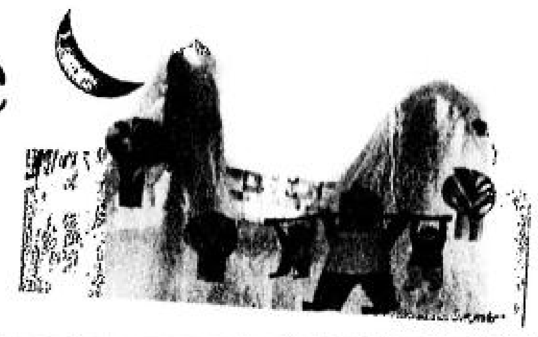
CHOICE EXPRESSION GALLERY presents a collection of watercolors by Romeo Forbes.

Forbes, whose works in oil and acrylic have gained a big following, offers yet another aspect of his artistry. In his new works, he accentuates watercolor with graphite.

Not many people know that Forbes is a watercolor wizard, having won the grand prizes in watercolor in the Petron and Shell art contests.

The new series has Forbes mellowing his colors, complementing the flow of his medium. The inclusion of graphite lends a magical aura to some of his naïf compositions, lending a mystical character to the pieces, particularly those that have his signature sun, moon and stars.

Choice Expression has a new home on 2/F, Doña Consolacion Bldg., 122 Jupiter St., Bel Air, Makati. Call 8990717 or 8990718.



"PLAYTIME, Workout"

Our nation's follies captured . . .

From page C1

"GhRISt IS Good" (Galleria Duemila, until Dec. 2) . Obviously, there's a pun on the words "Christ" and "crisis," a combination that may well spell both suffering and deliverance to many.

In his usual irreverent mood, Aguinaldo has sought to determine our people's malaise, the pervasive cloud of despair and futility that envelopes the land.

In a tone both sacred and profane, real and surreal, bitter and sweet, truly seriocomic, he tries to expose the psyche of a people moving ever closer to perdition or, God willing, salvation.

The works are a tableau of well-conceived images, with the work "Ay Apo" resembling a medieval picture of Christ, and, though initially warlike in its representation, personifies an appeal to peace.

Elaborate

More elaborate in execution is "Selling Mirrors in the City of the Blind," where a bishop hands a mirror to individuals in baptism, suggesting that religious conversion may have put the indigenous folk in danger of losing their true identity.

In the other paintings, such as "Pinoylitik," Aguinaldo depicts the political crisis in the country, with television as an instrument of amusement and entertainment, adding confusion to the melee. The power lines in the painting suggest that the elites—the government, the rich and the powerful—have vested interests.

"TELE-kinesis" shows the power of television, blinding the public and alienating them from their own culture.

In "Believers," doubtless one of the most striking pieces in the show, a phalanx of Christians enters a church with the hope of gaining entry into heaven. Souls are shown flying from their graves, and moving into a kind of whirling force-field. The indigenous worshipers are carried on a conveyor belt into the grinding teeth of power saws poised to tear them apart.

Easily the most menacing of Aguinaldo's works is "Germination," where the tableau of a deity and two rows of worshippers provides a picture of the morphing process of technology, depicted as axes made of electronic circuit or computer chips.

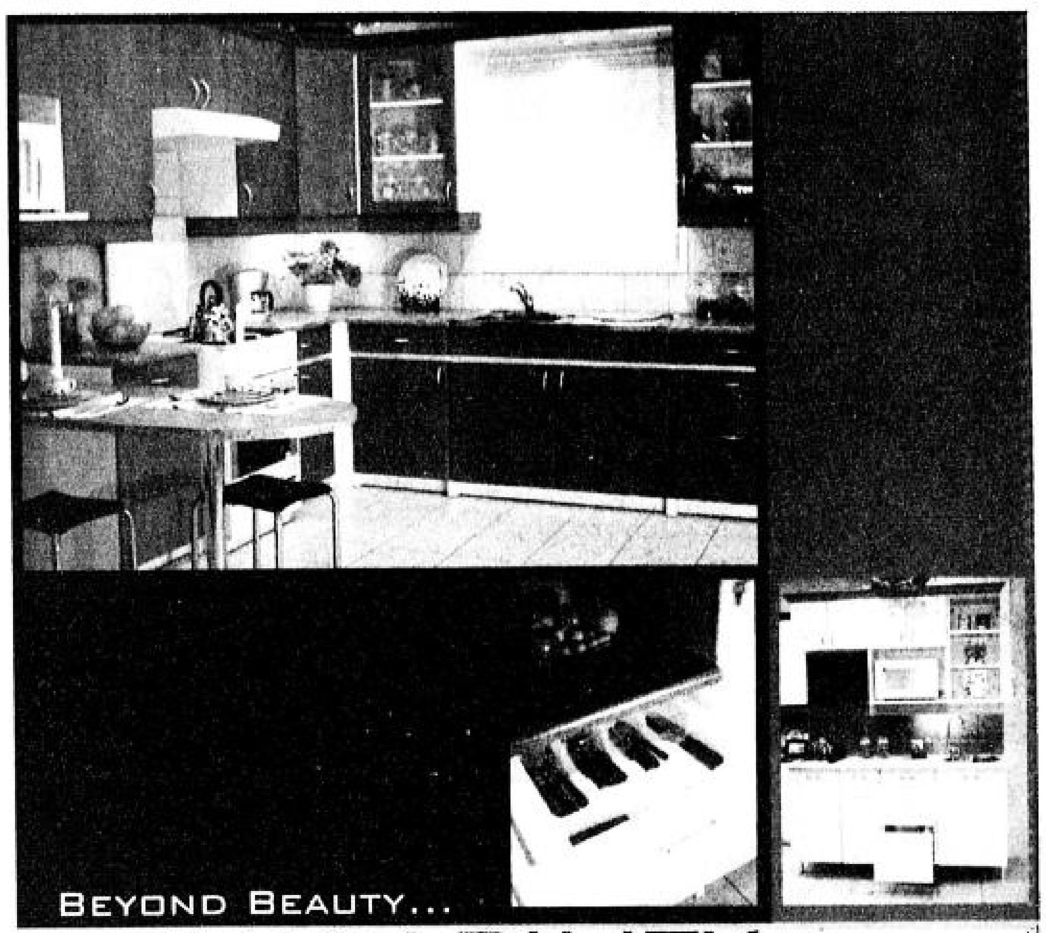
In many of these works, the *bulol*, an ancestral figure and endearing symbol of the Cordilleras, becomes an all-purpose icon, capable of changing identity as the narrative so requires, and playing the role of the masses who fall prey to the machinations of the powers-that-be.

But as spelled out by the artist, the *bulol* as deity still has the power to control light and darkness, so that its people remain firmly rooted on their land, living close to nature, warding off the evils of technology and commercialism.

The show also features an assortment of coin banks, which Aguinaldo has individually crafted from rubber. He chose to assemble these in a virtual *retablo*, an altar of prayer, deemed as an instant solution to our troubles and miseries.

In the middle stands Apo Dasal, the super deity who is symbol of hope and salvation. The *alkansiya* of Aguinaldo uniquely transcends material goods stored: They signify collective prayers so that the nation can be finally delivered from the vicious cycle of crisis.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



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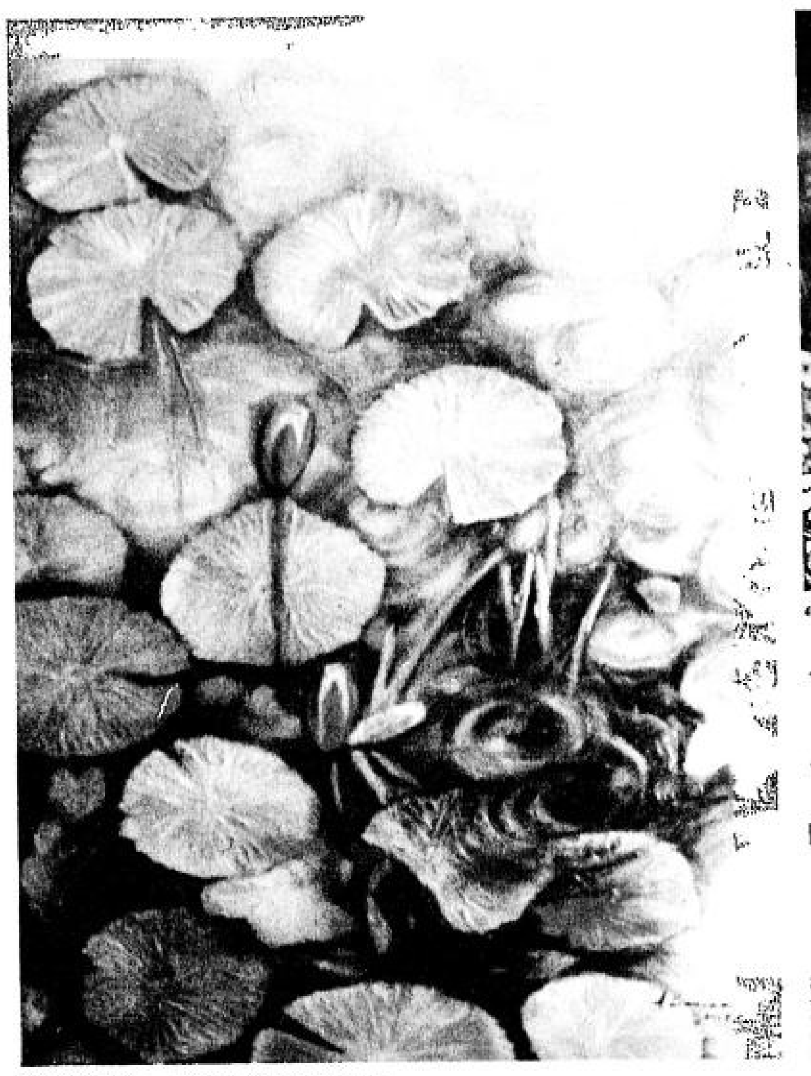
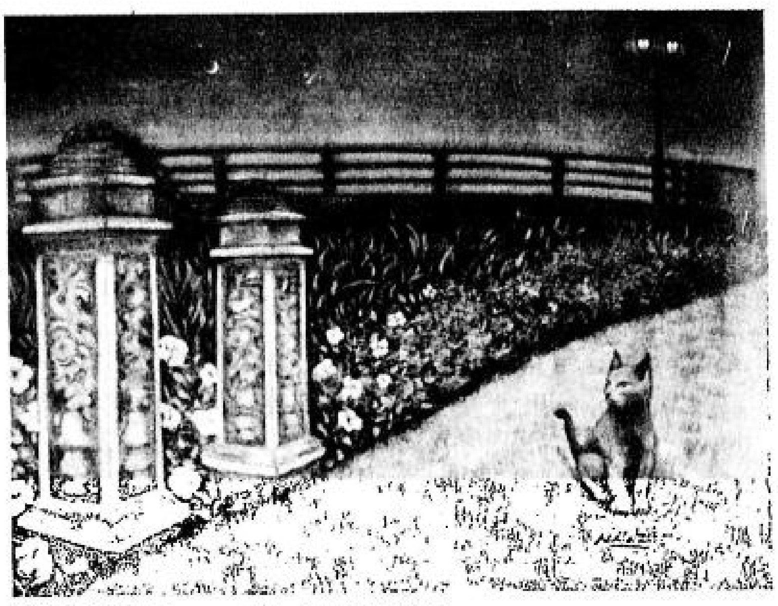
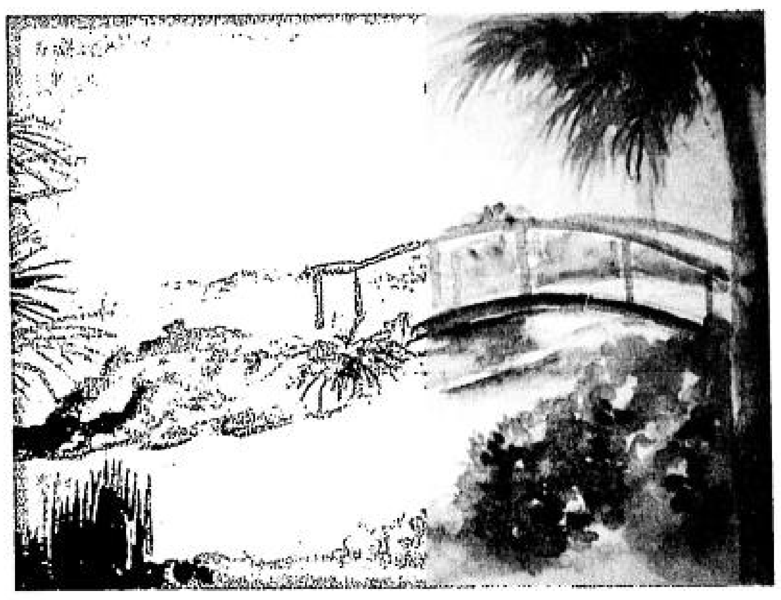


"LOTUS Pond," by Aileen Lanuza



"MIDNIGHT Lagoon," by Bayani Acala



"PONT Rouge," by Eileen Escueta

From landscape into void

By Constantino C. Tejero

STRONG PROOF THAT ART is booming in the country is when the works of local artists spill out of the art galleries. But does anyone need any further proof when these artists start holding exhibits in cemeteries and memorial parks?

Astonished art lovers recently witnessed such a phenomenon with the opening of the exhibit "Images of Tranquility," 67 pieces in various media (oil or acrylic on canvas, pastel on velour, watercolor, charcoal, pen and ink on paper), presented by Galerie Joaquin until Nov. 26 at The Heritage Park on Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Sometime earlier, the 25-member Guevarra Group of Artists was invited by Rosehills Memorial Management to an on-the-spot painting session in the park. With tranquility as theme, they were asked to paint the landscaping, structures and whatever they saw in the memorial park.

Nineteen artists participated in the session, and what they came up with are what's being exhibited. The result is an extremely mixed lot.

Here Zen meets Mabini art, the figurative hobnobs with the nonrepresentational, brilliant hues merge with achromatic monochrome, and landscape jostles with still life for available space on the walls.

The view of the park is a naturalist's delight. Here are the stuff of Oriental art: koi, lagoon, garden, bridge, doors, lotus, gazebo, rocks, orchids, trees, street lamps, fountain, pond.

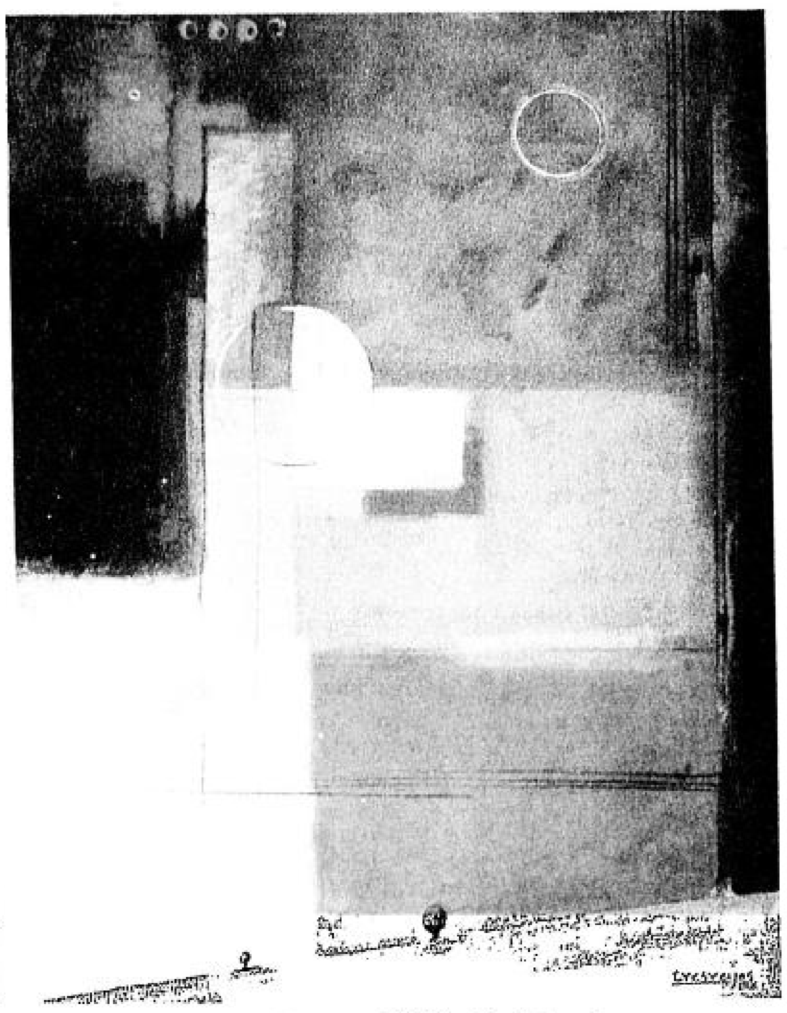
The artists' individual styles range from realistic to graphic to impressionistic to nonfigurative, their techniques varying from washes to impasto.

Such high contrasts of styles and techniques can be clearly appreciated in pieces on the same subjects, such as Aileen Lanuza's and Bernard Vista's rendering of a lotus pond, or the various versions of a green door, a red bridge, the lagoon at night or day.

Among the more notable are Lanuza's gigantic blooms á la Georgia O'Keeffe; Ricky Montilla's impressionistic view of the bridge and lagoon in varying perspectives, "After the Rain" 1-4; Vincent de Pio's pair of blood-red still lifes, "Orchids" and "Chair and Flowers"; Eileen Escueta's Chinese-painting rendering of landscape; Pancho Villanueva's cubist piece in blue and green, "Misty Morning."

An intriguing piece is Leonardo Reyes' "Nine Fishes." This is simply a top view of a school of koi snuggling in the water, limned in warm color tones in watercolor on paper.

Seen a few meters away, however, they look like a cluster of red, orange and yellow flowers. It is a joyous piece, Zen-like in its surprise and delight, in the opening of the mind and the expansion of vision.



"PERFECT Circle (In My Dreams II)," by Edwin Tres Reyes

In a series in oil on canvas—"Morphosis," "Transition" and "Tranquility"—Gino Tioseco limns in washes of white, gray and slate-blue streaked with ochre and umber sketchy figures melting into an expanse of blankness. Paralleling this passage from figuration to abstraction is the view of landscape architecture becoming a void.

Here, step by gradual step, one is approaching the final destination, where one attains genuine peace, true tranquility, repose. This is, of course, Zen.

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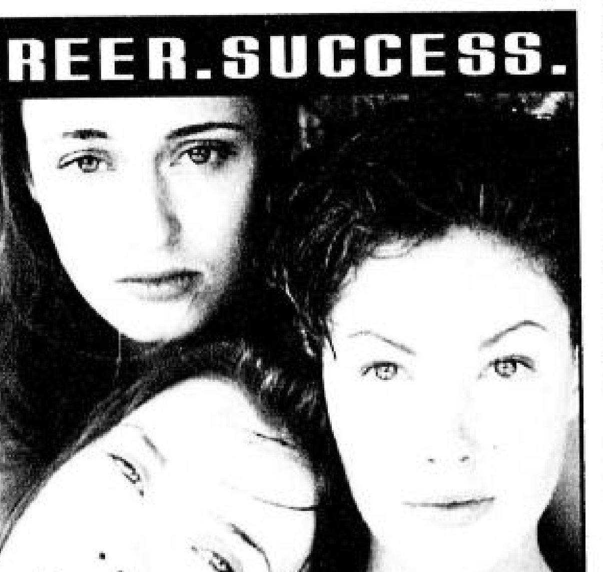

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Ademis and Aurelio at Renaissance, Cruz at InterCon, young women artists at Joaquin

VISUAL ARTS

THE RENAISSANCE Gallery presents Rey Ademis and Rey Aurelio in "Back 2 Back" on Nov. 21-Dec 4. Both artists are members of the Arte Pintura Group and painting instructors of the Arte Pintura Saturday workshop held weekly in the group's gallery at Shaw Boulevard.

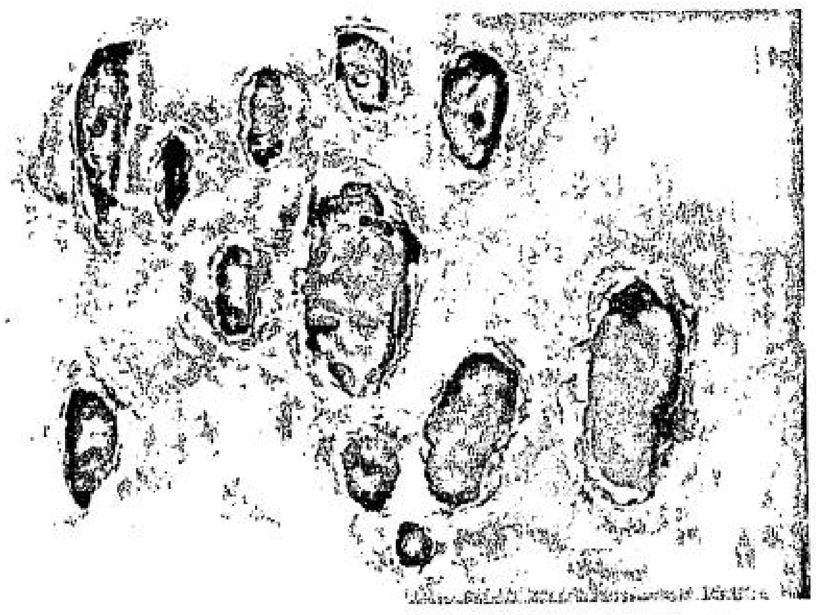
Ademis experiments with the effects of light on various subjects with astounding realism. A master of landscape and realistic subjects with numerous exhibits under his sleeves, he has been painting for the past 35 years.

Aurelio veers away from his usual figurative and social realist subjects and experiments with abstraction. A former Fine Arts student at Philippine Women University and finalist in various art competitions, he shows his skill in non-representational subjects using mixed media. Call 6373101.

SOLANO S. Cruz, artist and exponent of Banigism, will hold his 11th one-man show at Hotel InterContinental, Makati City, on Nov. 30, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., with the theme "Filipino Values." The one-day exhibit is sponsored by Bank of the Philippine Islands Foundation, Joy Sison and Benigno M. Gopez, for the benefit of the San Roque Church of Mandaluyong. Guest of honor are Benjie Tolentino, Andy Hison, Ogie Montiero, Boy Kao, Ed Agustin, Perfecto M. Mendoza, and Martin R. Nieto, president of ADS Republic outdoor advertising.

GALERIE Joaquin features three young artists in "Playing It Big." Pia Gutierrez uses her pen and ink to weave intricate patterns over layers and layers of colors. Mia Virata paints wildlife subjects in impasto strokes of oil paint, creating patterns that are strikingly dramatic in appeal. Aina Valencia uses ID photos of her co-workers as the bases for her portraits, making them larger than life by capturing their individual personalities, pushing the concept of portraiture to another level.

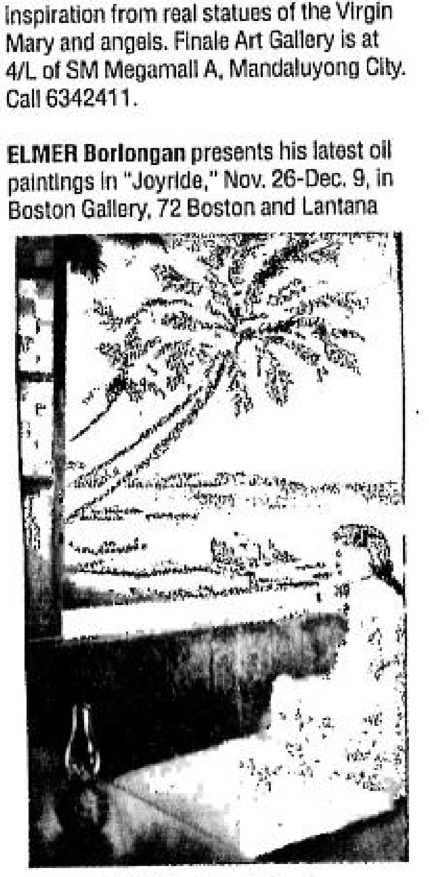
Valencia and Virata are students of Renato Habulan. Gutierrez is a student of Geri Dueñas. Show opens tomorrow at Galerie Joaquin, 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila. It runs until Dec. 5.



"REALITY Hides Within," by Rey Aurelio

FINALE Art Gallery presents "Images," a one-man exhibit of Rafael del Casal, Nov. 24-Dec. 2. Del Casal is known for his beautiful interpretations of religious iconography. For this latest exhibit, he took inspiration from real statues of the Virgin Mary and angels. Finale Art Gallery is at 4/L of SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. Call 6342411.

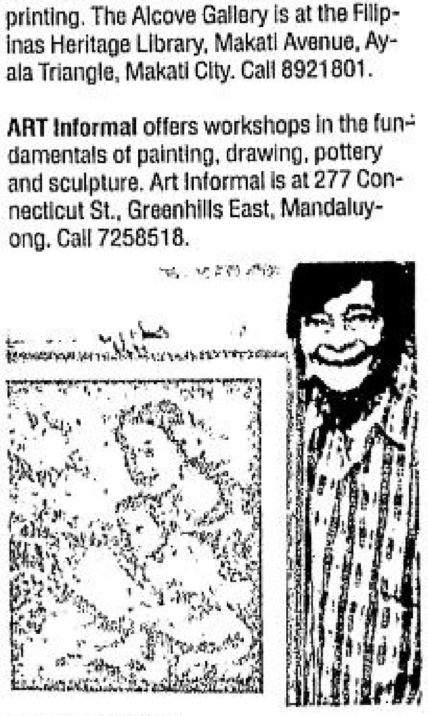
ELMER Borlongan presents his latest oil paintings in "Joyride," Nov. 26-Dec. 9, in Boston Gallery, 72 Boston and Lantana Sts., Cubao, Quezon City. The works feature street characters in casual, carefree joyrides.



"DUNGAW," by Rey Ademis

THE ALCOVE PHOTO GALLERY presents Charlie Villanueva's "Reflections '05," his first one-man show, Nov. 19-Dec. 13. Focusing on landscapes, the show resurrects the traditional manual way of darkroom printing. The Alcove Gallery is at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. Call 8921801.

ART Informal offers workshops in the fundamentals of painting, drawing, pottery and sculpture. Art Informal is at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong. Call 7258518.



SOLANO Cruz

AUGUSTO Villalon on Alvar Aalto /D4

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Slow food is love

By Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio
Contributor

(Excerpts from the new book, "Slow Food: Philippine Culinary Traditions," edited by the author and Felice Sta. Maria, and published by Anvil Publishing, which will be launched tonight at 6 at Le Souffle, Rockwell.)

THE FOOD OUR MOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS or adored aunts prepared for us with care and patience was a subliminal signal that they loved us. They would slave over a hot stove or by an oven, fussing over the dish they had been cooking, pinching or tasting it from time to time to make sure it was just right. Their reward came when we savored these dishes and pronounced them the best ever.

Felice Sta. Maria, writing in "Comforting Cuisine" (International Wine and Food Society—the Manila Ladies Branch, 2003), says that her grandpa would bake giant turkeys and hams-on-the-bone for Thanksgiving and Christmas, then, in front of everyone, would allow her to taste the gravy. It gave her the greatest pleasure to announce, "It's perfect!" Thus is a cook affirmed and rewarded after having slaved for hours in the kitchen.

Gloria "Dodit" Reyes asserts in her essay in this book that "No brand of mayonnaise can hold a candle to Mommy's homemade mayo that she would painstakingly prepare, beating it in one direction slowly and ever so patiently, nonstop, so as not to break up (cortar) the mixture." She also remembers her mommy's galantina for the family's Christmas table. The dishes her mother cooked for them never failed, she says, "to evoke comforting memories of our home, the love of our mother and how she nurtured and nourished us."

Despite her limited means, my grandmother who had 11 children and over forty grandchildren by the time she passed away expressed her love for all of us through her cooking. In her home in Gandara, Samar, she would make *quesio*, *torta*, and *suman sa latik* and send these to us through anyone who happened to be traveling to Manila. Each one of us who received these food gifts that we knew took time and much of Lola's energy to prepare would be transported with joy. For these were not only delicious, they were truly special, so that we tried to make them last in our refrigerator or freezer.

Guilty pleasures

My late husband's mother, Leonor (Imang Orang) Evangelista Panlilio, likewise showed that she cared for us by preparing her own specialties —tamales, *begukan*, and *sisig*—that we would feast on whenever we went to see her in Angeles, Pampanga, on town-fiesta day, at Christmas, and

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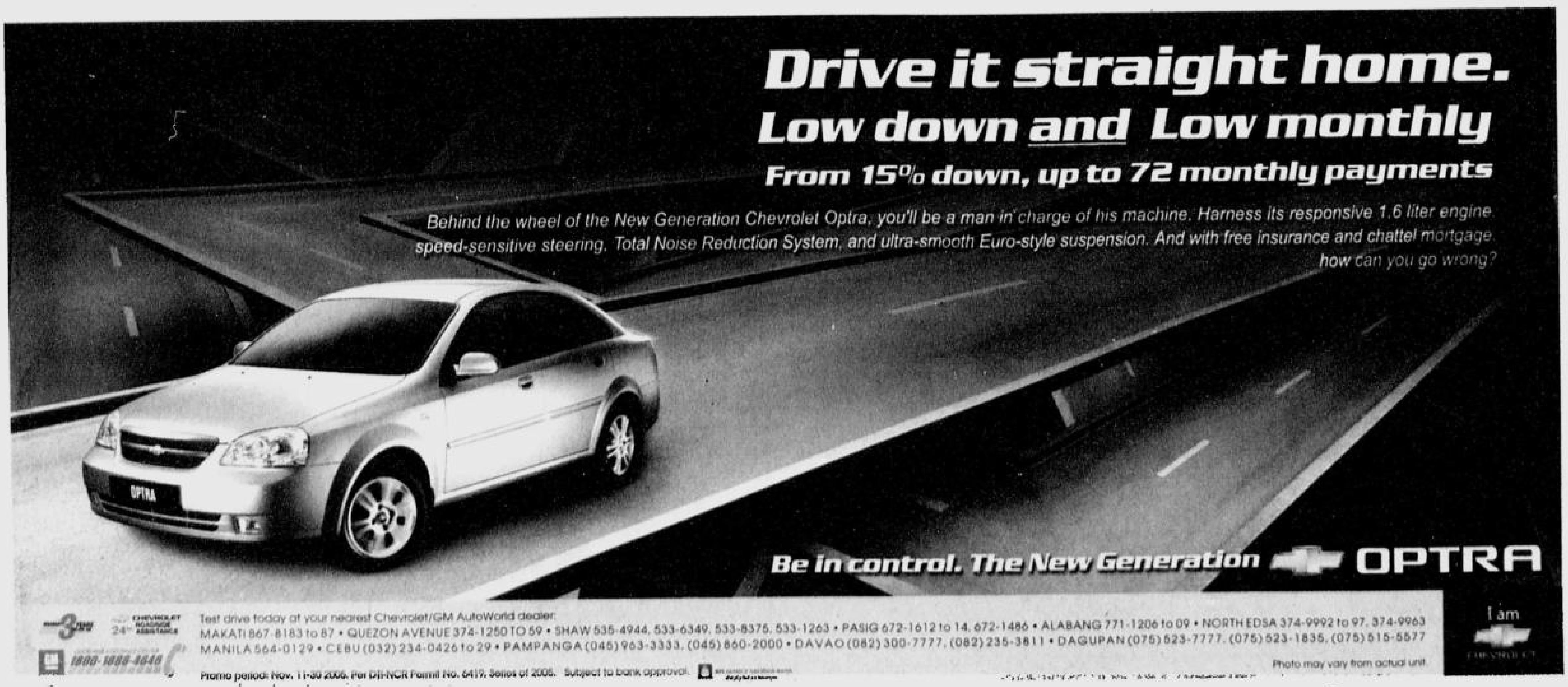
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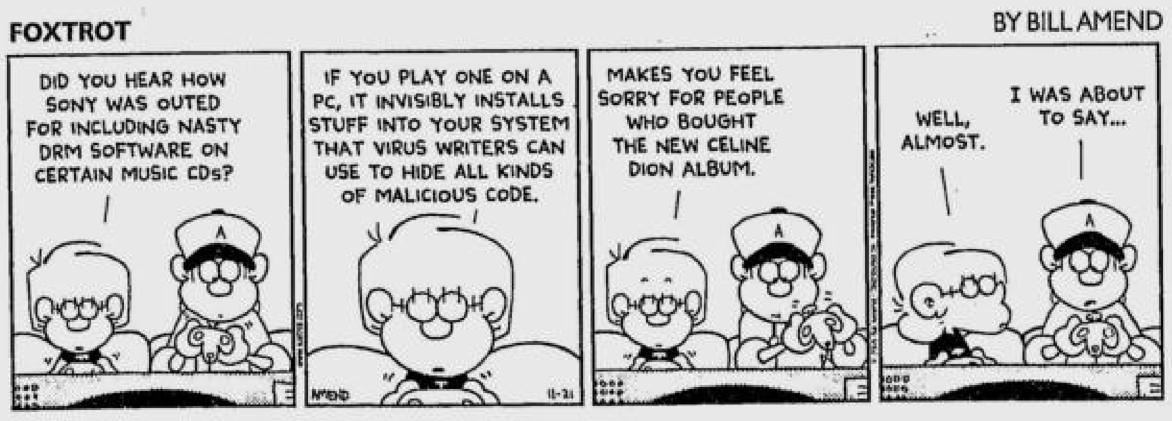
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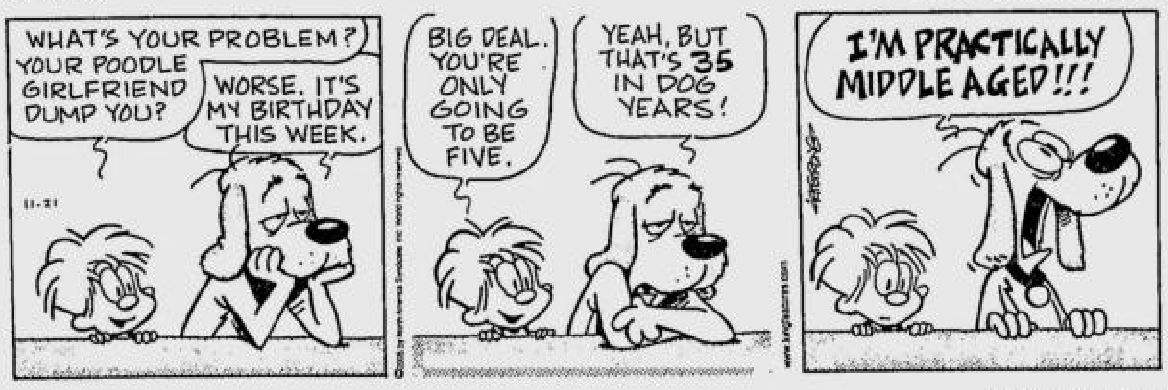
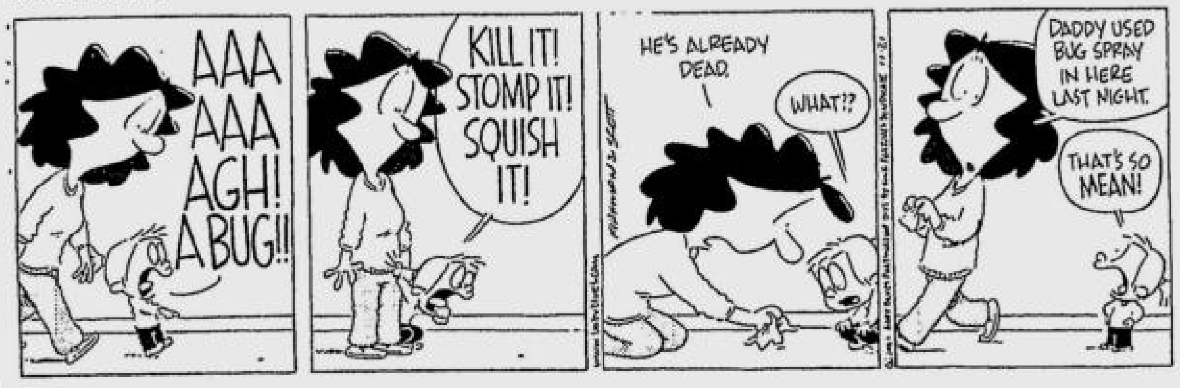
WELL, ALMOST.
I WAS ABOUT TO SAY...
AMEND
11-21

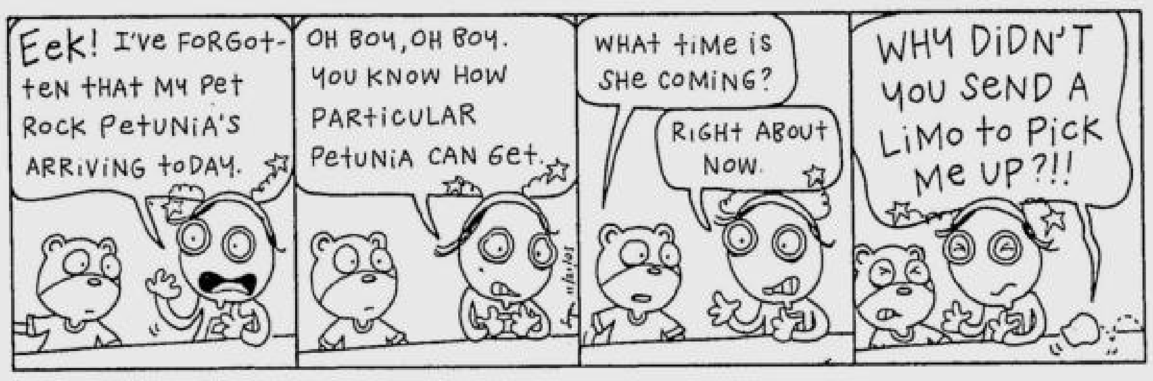
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? YOUR POODLE GIRLFRIEND DUMP YOU?
WORSE. IT'S MY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK.
BIG DEAL. YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO BE FIVE.
YEAH, BUT THAT'S 35 IN DOG YEARS!
I'M PRACTICALLY MIDDLE AGED!!!
11-21

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


AAA AAA AGH! A BUG!!
KILL IT! STOMP IT! SQUISH IT!
HE'S ALREADY DEAD.
WHAT!?
DADDY USED BUG SPRAY IN HERE LAST NIGHT.
THAT'S SO MEAN!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Eek! I've FoRGotten tHAt My Pet Rock PetuNiA's ARRiViNG toDAy.
OH Boy, OH Boy. You KNOW HOW PARticULAR PetuNiA CAN Get.
WHAt time is SHe coMiNG?
RiGHt ABOut Now.
WHY DiDN'T you SeND A LiMo to Pick Me UP?!!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have amazing willpower. You're focused, determined and physically active. You're also confident and charming. People love your enthusiasm for life. You have a good head for business. Nevertheless, you are idealistic and sensitive to the needs of others. An important choice will arise in the next year. Choose wisely. **Birthdate of:** Goldie Hawn, actress; Troy Aikman, football player; Rene Magritte, artist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have an increasing desire to travel and explore more of the world. Education, publishing and dealing with the media also become more important at this time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel increasingly intense about things. You want to get to the bottom of something. The truth of something matters. Elsewhere, you're concerned with shared possessions and inheritances.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today the Sun moves opposite your sign. This gives you the opportunity (in the next few weeks) to learn more about yourself through all your one-on-one relationships.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Roll up your sleeves and get busy. You have a strong desire now to get better-organized. Act while this urge is with you! Sort, paint, clean, file and straighten up loose details.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your focus starts to shift to love, romance, entertaining diversions and increased activities with children—all the fun stuff. You want to have a good time. (Do it!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your attention turns to home, family and domestic matters now. You might also be increasingly focused on real estate matters. Talk to a parent or a family member who needs your love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The tempo of your daily routine will increase now. Short trips, errands, increased time spent with relatives and siblings, shopping, buying and selling—all these keep you hopping in the next few weeks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Expect to be increasingly concerned with your possessions. You might want to buy something important in the next few weeks. You feel that what you own reflects who you are. (But does it?)

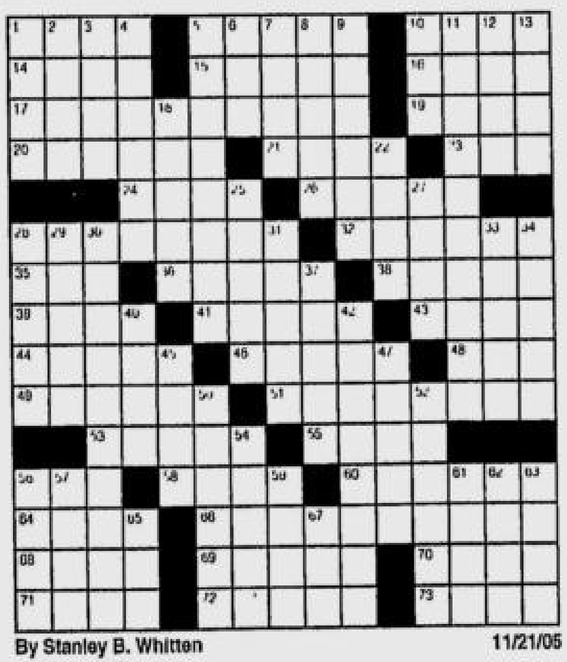
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today the Sun moves into your sign. It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of year. Don't hesitate to put yourself first now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Try to respect your need for peace and quiet. You need increased solitude in the next few weeks so that you can pull your act together. You have stuff to think about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your popularity rating certainly increases in the next few weeks! Accept all invitations. Talk to friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today the Sun starts to move across the top of your chart. This acts like a spotlight on you. Everyone (especially VIPs and bosses) will notice you more in the month ahead.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
11/21/05

ACROSS
1 In the sack
5 Winter coat
10 March 15th, e.g.
14 To the left: pref.
15 Bay window
16 Desperate
17 Sportscaster of note
19 Retin-A target
20 Temper
21 Rotate
23 Rosewall or Follett
24 Against
26 Roebuck's partner
28 Demanding a price
32 Added some seasoning
35 Sniggler's prey
36 Steep slope
38 Likable loser
39 Notre __
41 Some rapiers
43 '60s musical
44 Bad deeds
46 Representative
48 Boxing great
49 Knocked to the canvas
51 Kind of soup
53 Sharpens
55 Calendar span
56 Meadow, poetically
58 Fender damage
60 Slow movers
64 Cassini of fashion
66 Sportscaster of note
68 Man or Anglesey
69 Sporting event site
70 "Born Free" lioness
71 Aerie
72 Arabian country
73 Ooze

DOWN
1 Seaweed
2 Capital of Switzerland
3 Tied
4 Turned-down corner
5 Cataplasm
6 Tentacle
7 Chest bones
8 Maintains
9 Friends
10 Tarbell or Lupino
11 Sportscaster of note
12 Sea eagle
13 Observed
18 Unruly groups
22 Catches forty winks
25 Not appropriate
27 Wealthy
28 Gave away
29 Toss
30 Sportscaster of note
31 Joel and Jennifer
33 French writer Zola
34 Andrea, the dictator of Genoa
37 Full of vigor
40 Nevada town
42 Willy Loman's profession
45 Transmit
47 Tropical vine
50 Radio figure
52 Swaps
54 Make night noise
56 Meat cut
57 Otherwise
59 Joyce Carol Oates novel
61 At rest
62 __-majesty
63 Cinch
65 Obtain
67 Compass pt.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	A	R	K	S	■	H	O	T	S	P	O	T	S
N	O	V	E	N	A	■	M	A	U	N	A	L	O	A
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S	P	A	C	E	M	A	N	■	N	U	A	N	C	E
M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	■	S	P	I	N	A	L
A	R	I	D	■	■	U	G	H	■	■	T	A	L	E
R	I	D	G	E	S	■	H	E	I	G	H	T	E	N
T	A	L	E	N	T	■	T	R	O	U	S	E	R	S
S	H	Y	S	T	E	R	■	O	N	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	I	R	A	■	D	E	S	C	E	N	T
A	D	A	P	T	I	V	E	■	S	T	A	R	E	R
L	E	V	E	L	L	E	D	■	C	E	R	I	S	E
S	E	A	W	E	E	D	S	■	O	D	E	N	S	E

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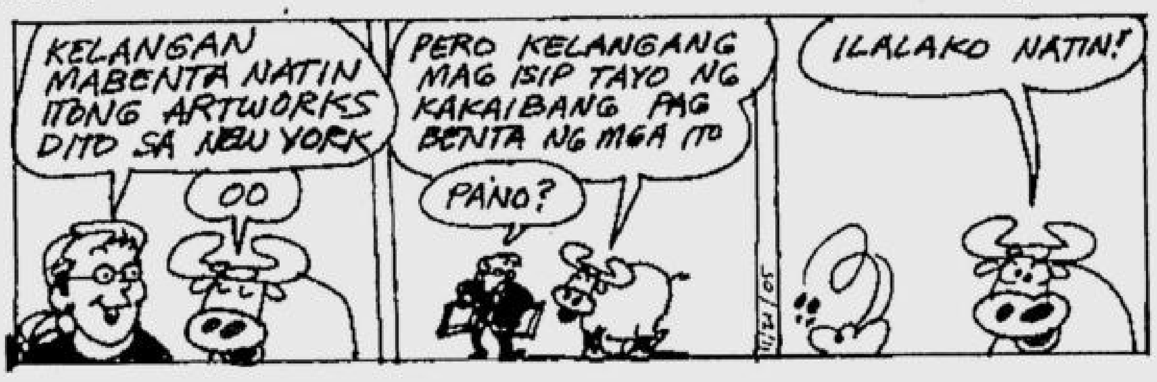
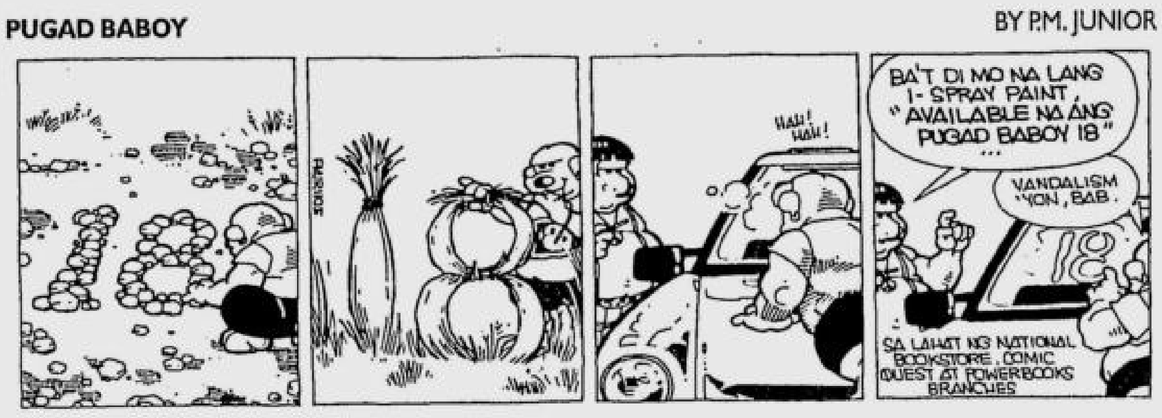
11/21/05

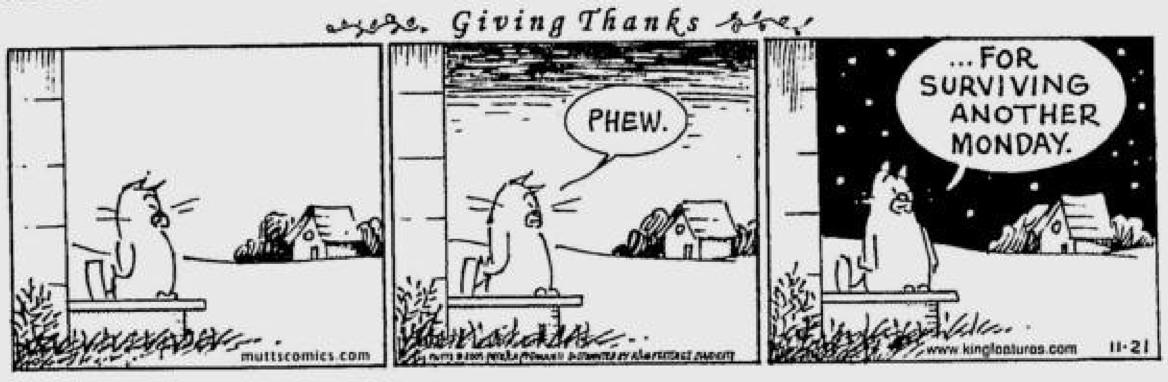
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MABENTA NATIN ITONG ARTWORKS DITO SA NEW YORK
OO
PERO KELANGANG MAG ISIP TAYO NG KAKAIBANG PAG BENTA NG MGA ITO
PAÑO?
ILALAKO NATIN!

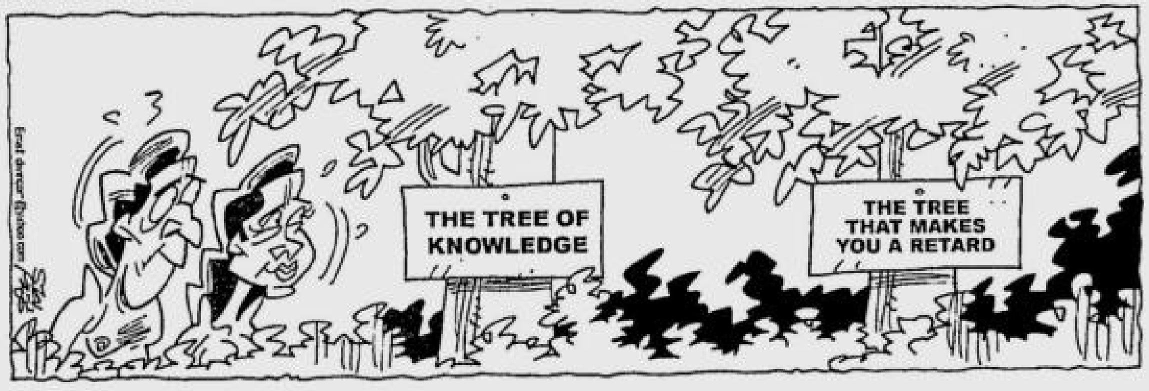
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


HAH! HAH!
BA'T DI MO NA LANG I- SPRAY PAINT, "AVAILABLE NA ANG PUGAD BABOY 18" ...
VANDALISM 'YON, BAB.
SA LAHAT NG NATIONAL BOOKSTORE, COMIC QUEST AT POWERBOOKS BRANCHES

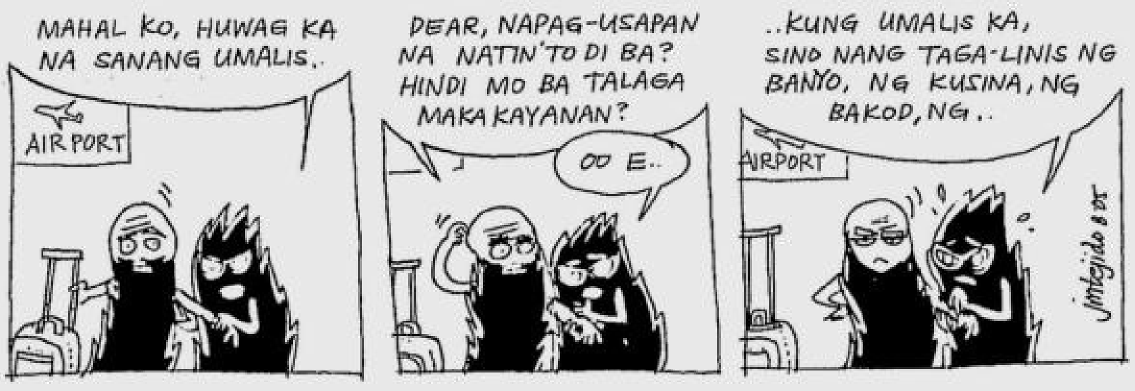
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Giving Thanks
PHEW.
... FOR SURVIVING ANOTHER MONDAY.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
11-21

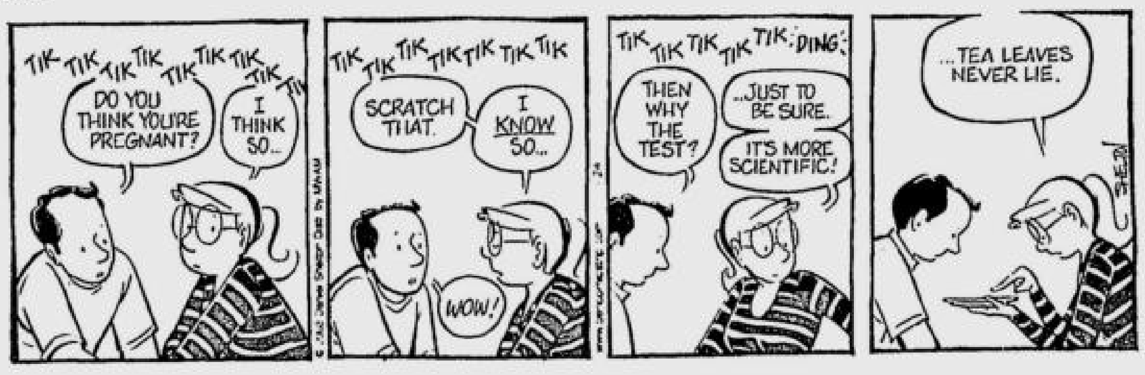
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE
THE TREE THAT MAKES YOU A RETARD

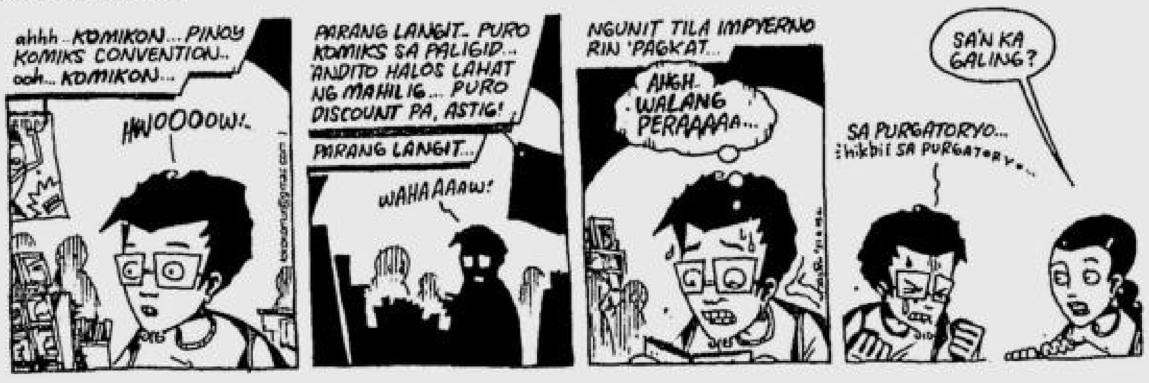
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAHAL KO, HUWAG KA NA SANANG UMALIS..
AIR PORT
DEAR, NAPAG-USAPAN NA NATIN'TO DI BA? HINDI MO BA TALAGA MAKA KAYANAN?
OO E..
..KUNG UMALIS KA, SINO NANG TAGA-LINIS NG BANYO, NG KUSINA, NG BAKOD, NG..
AIRPORT
jmtejido 8 05

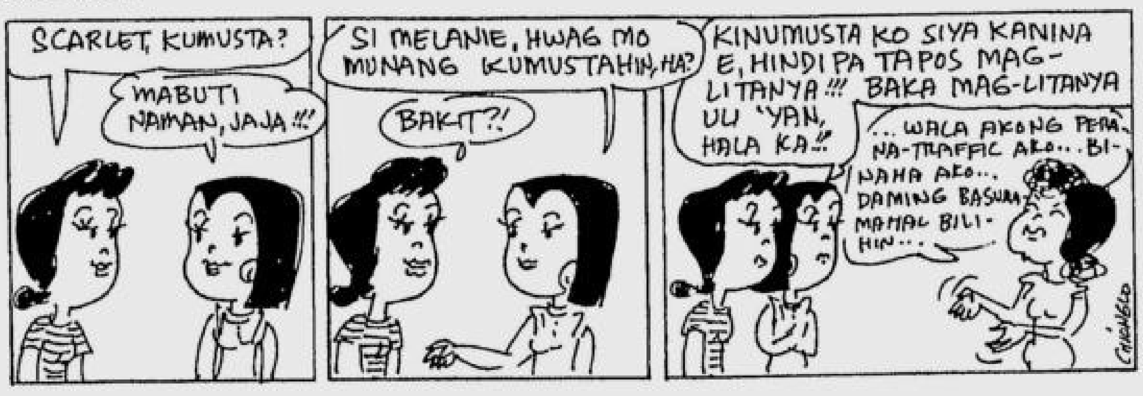
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PREGNANT?
I THINK SO...
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
SCRATCH THAT.
I KNOW SO...
WOW!
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK DING
THEN WHY THE TEST?
...JUST TO BE SURE.
IT'S MORE SCIENTIFIC!
...TEA LEAVES NEVER LIE.
SHELTON

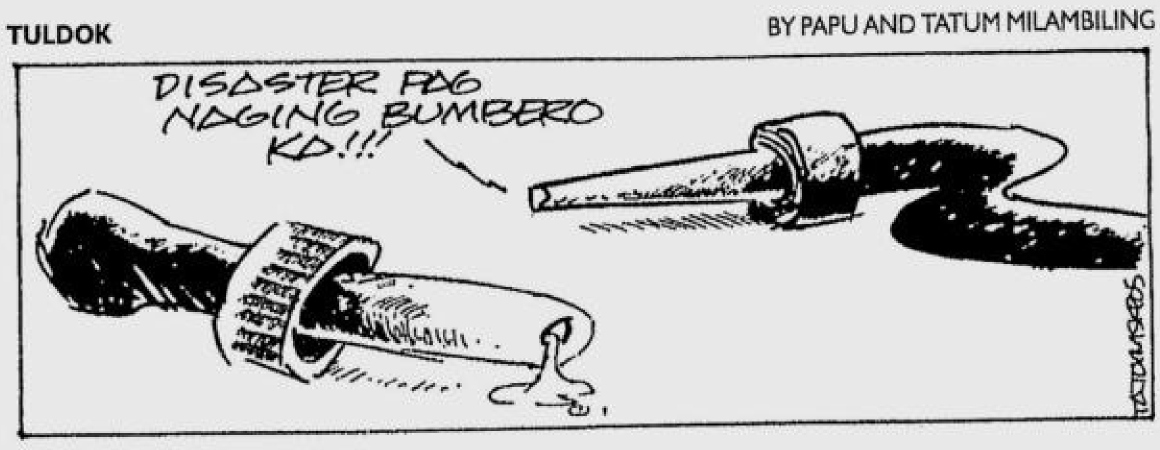
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ahhh.. KOMIKON... PINOY KOMIKS CONVENTION.. ooh... KOMIKON...
HWOOOOW!..
PARANG LANGIT.. PURO KOMIKS SA PALIGID... ANDITO HALOS LAHAT NG MAHILIG... PURO DISCOUNT PA, ASTIG!
PARANG LANGIT...
WAHAAAAW!
NGUNIT TILA IMPYERNO RIN 'PAGKAT...
AHGH.. WALANG PERAAAAA...
SA PURGATORYO... :hikbi! SA PURGATORYO...
SA'N KA GALING?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, KUMUSTA?
MABUTI NAMAN, JAJA!!!
SI MELANIE, HWAG MO MUNANG KUMUSTAHIN, HA?
BAKIT?!
KINUMUSTA KO SIYA KANINA E, HINDI PA TAPOS MAG-LITANYA!!! BAKA MAG-LITANYA ULI 'YAN, HALA KA!!
...WALA AKONG PERA... NA-TRAFFIC AKO... BINAHA AKO... DAMING BASURA... MAHAL BILIHIN...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DISASTER PAG NAGING BUMBERO KA!!!

Slow food is love

From page D1

during the Good Friday Pista ng Apo. Despite the fasting and abstinence requirement on the latter occasion, we were compelled to eat all those pork-laden dishes. Then she would make sure we had extra portions to take home.

Floretta Sevilla Simpson says in her essay that she is "transported back to the cozy bosom" of her family whenever she remembers her mama's *pospas*.

Christine Nunag, a Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Writing Awards winner (2004), tells of how two mothers—her own and her best friend's, plus the latter's sister—allowed her to participate in cooking their special dishes for a son's wedding in Pampanga. It was a laborious and time-consuming task that took a whole day, the food being cooked in cast-iron vats over live coals fed by firewood. She says that "these women who cooked in a slow and arduous manner… clearly performed the craft of cooking for one thing. And that was for love."

From the testimonials of every one of those who bothered to take her or his sweet time preparing dishes the old-fashioned way, it is evident that love is the driving force, the rationale behind it all.

The best way to reciprocate the love that has gone into the preparation of a particular dish is by slowly savoring it. Because it had been cooked slowly, with much care, in like manner, it behooves us to devote all our senses to its appreciation.

THE AUTHOR. "Filipinos should document family recipes."

Heritage

We owe it to ourselves to ensure that the love for traditional cooking lives on, that the affection for it continues. We can start by documenting family recipes, especially heirloom ones that had been handed down from our grandmothers to our mothers and aunts.

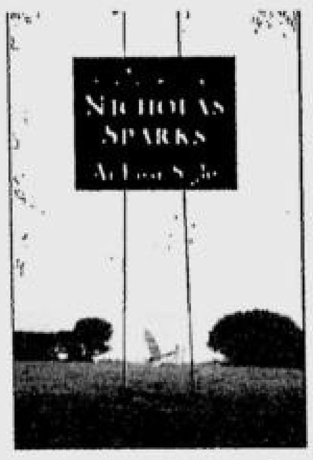
Each region in the country and each family have a particular way of cooking a dish like *adobo*. It would be too bad if the family recipe were lost. Household cooks are trained by the mistress of the house to prepare a dish her way. But the children will always swear, as Dodit Reyes writes, that their mommy's version is "a notch above even the best" *adobo*, *cocido*, or whatever dish prepared by the family cook.

Chef Ed Quimson recalls how his grandmother took all of five to six hours to prepare her *kare-kare*, boiling and reboiling the oxtail and tripe till all the scum disappeared, then simmering further till tender. For the sauce, the peanuts and rice were "toasted to a perfect golden brown, which meant over a very slow fire," then ground. "The right shade of yellow" had to be extracted from the *achuete*, hence its cooking, again, over a very slow fire. Chef Ed was fortunate to have participated in the cooking of his grandmother's "unparalleled" *pastillas de leche* that took from three to four hours to make using pure carabao's milk with *dayap* as flavoring. We are all privileged to have the recipes for these dishes that he considers "the very embodiment of the 'Slow food' philosophy." "Slow," he says, "because it is cooked with no shortcuts, no scrimping on ingredients, but instead with painstaking care, and thus only with a whole lot of love."

C. Horatius Mosquera, another DGF Writing Awards finalist, avers that his Lola Encar, being proudly of the old school, had always insisted that "food must be prepared, cooked, and enjoyed with love. Otherwise we would be no better than pigs at the trough."

It goes without saying that food is at the center of life, that it is not just life-giving but life-enhancing as well, bringing families and friends closer together in the ritual of eating. We bond with every meal, celebrating the love we share as a family, the friendship that has lasted through the years. When the food is prepared patiently, with loving hands, it is the best gift of all.

Club tackles Sparks, Coelho



POWERBOOKS SPECIALTY Store's Book Club features two inspiring tales of love and the beauty of human relationships for November—"At First Sight" by Nicholas Sparks, and "The Zahir" by Paulo Coelho.

"At First Sight" continues the saga of extraordinary love between Jeremy Marsh and Lexie Darnell, characters from Spark's bestseller, "True Believer." An unsettling and mysterious message reopens old wounds and sets off a chain of events that will forever change their marriage.

Coelho's "The Zahir" follows a renowned author's search for his wife, a war correspondent, who has mysteriously disappeared. His search for her leads to a new understanding of love and destiny.

"At First Sight" will be discussed on Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m., at Greenbelt, "The Zahir" on Nov. 23, 6:30 p.m., at Megamall. The first eight non-Book Club members to sign up will get the featured book for free.

PowerBooks is at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (63800-23/25) and Robinsons Place Ermita (523-3334/5243448).

Scrapbook workshops at Glorietta

NATIONAL BOOK STORE IS holding the Filstar scrapbook workshops at the lobby of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati, from Nov. 21 to 24.

Create your own mini scrapbook album in the Albums-to-Go Workshops (1-2 p.m.). Learn to use scrapbooking accessories made from natural materials in the Simply Handmade Workshops (3-4 p.m.). Add depth and dimension to your scrapbook pages in the Texturize It! Workshops (5-6 p.m.). Learn new ways of wrapping your gifts at the Christmas Create-a-Wrap Workshops (6:30-7:30 p.m.).

Participants must purchase a Filstar scrapbook or create-a-wrap kit worth P150 for each workshop.

Call Filstar, 6710555 and 6713171 or via fax 671-1738.

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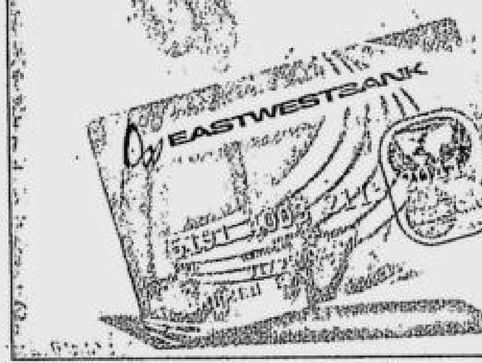

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday, November 21, 2005

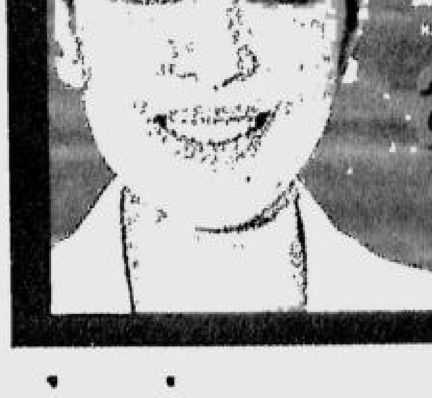
ALL NEW SEASON
THE APPRENTICE
MONDAY 10PM
SEE IT FIRST ON ABC

ALL NEW SERIES
THE APPRENTICE
Martha Stewart
TUESDAY 10PM

ClickTheCity.com

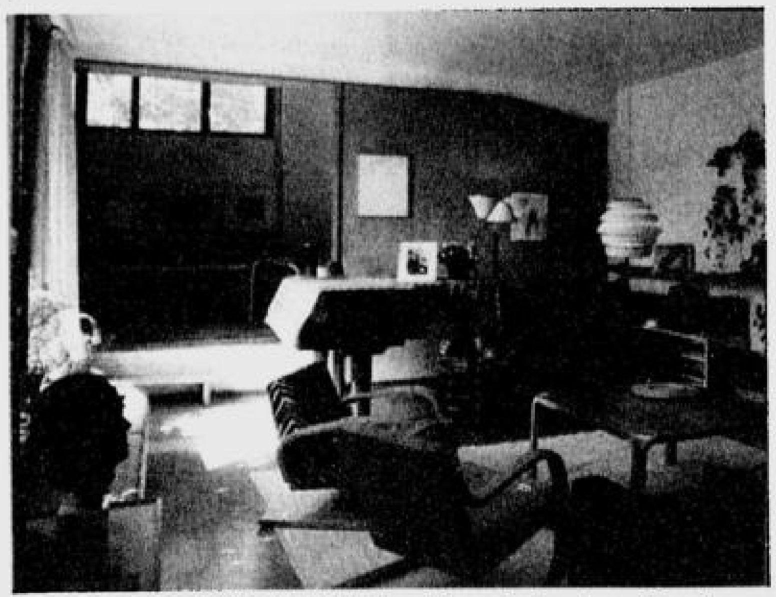
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Speed		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	The Apprentice		Toloo TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Motor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Pinoy Big Brother	Vietnam Rose	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
AXN					Worst Case Scenario		E Buzz	Beastmaster		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Sports Disaster V		Numb3rs (Season I)		Lost The Journey Special		Lost	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo Rescue	Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty
Cinema One		Bakit Madalas Ang Tibok Ng Puso				Aishete Imasu				Magkapatid				Dekada 70				La Vida Rosa	
Cinemax			Indiscreet			A Case For Murder				Maverick (6.55 PM)				Something To Talk About			Tempo (10.45PM)		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Body Work		The Mummy Detectives		The Mythbusters 3		Speed Week		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		Altered Statesmen	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Today Weekend		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		For Love Or Money	
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Sunday Night With (Encore) Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Threshold Of Hope		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10.15PM)	Defending Life	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Fox Report Sunday		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends				Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romance	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wife Swap		Gift of Love: The Daniel Huffman Story			Wire In The Blood (10.35PM)		Mysterious Way (11.25PM)
HBO			Mask (3.25.PM)				Legends of the Fall (5.20 PM)				A Cinderella Story			Hellboy				Urban Cowboy	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Family Series		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		South Park	Street Smarts	Wire Host		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Sweet Spot	Comedy Central Presents	Comedy Central Presents	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	El Extra My Crazy Life		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Living Space	Style Star	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Rockola	MTV Ask	Chart Attack		Viva La Bam	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Massive	Get Spotted	TRL		The 70's House	Wild N' Out	Homecoming	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten				Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Spider Deadly Love		Planet Wild		Snake Wranglers	Totally Wild	Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Dangerous Encounters		Bug Attack S2	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sia?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Return Of The Z		Yakap Sa Lamig, Kapit Sa Unos				Waway				Ikaw na Sana				Tapika Lite & Live		
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Score Tactics	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Simple Life 2	Cargo For Truth	
SBN 21		Now Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Hinala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Friends Again	
Solar Sports						Ultimate Fighting Championship				NFL 2005 Pittsburgh @ Baltimore		Sports Desk							NBA Jam
Sports Plus	World Golf Championships Algarve World Cup Final															World Golf Championships Algarve World Cup Final			
Star Movies			The Good Girl (3.45PM)				RFK (5.25 PM)			Mystery Men				Spooks			Snoops 2 (10.45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Married To The Kellys/Monk	Everybody Loves Raymond	King Of Queens	Bucket/Miss World Asia Pacific, Vote For Me Miss World Caribbean Vote For Me	Monk		Friends	Married To The Kellys/Monk
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monster						Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Swan Season 2		Tru Calling (8.20 PM)	Charmed (9.10 PM)		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

ALVAR AALTO

Nordic tranquility and timelessness



AALTO furnished his 1936 Helsinki residence in bentwood furniture of his own design which are today's design classics.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT OF Finland is a setting difficult to achieve on this part of the world. The Finnish countryside is the antithesis of the exuberant tropical landscape of luxurious palms and sensuously shaped leaves that dazzle in deep shades of green.

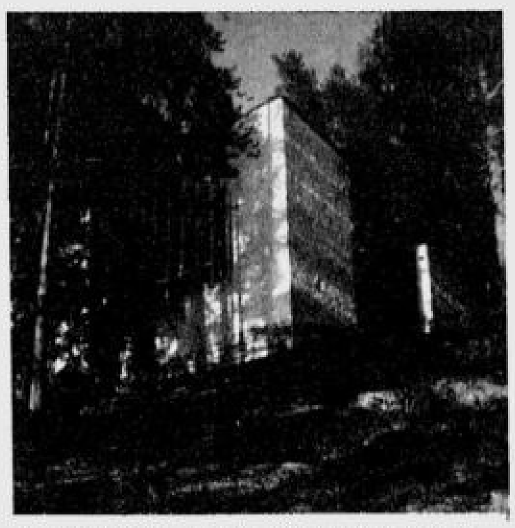
The work of Alvar Aalto (1898-1976), one of the great icons of modern architecture, takes its inspiration (and its life) from the tranquil Finnish environment. His work, showing clarity of form, elegant proportions and minimal ornament, led to his singular approach to architecture that was direct, honest and truly timeless.

In the interim between the two World Wars, the architectural focus on the Continent was a fascination with cutting-edge innovation made possible by new building materials. Architects furiously matched industrial achievements of the day—cars, airplanes, ocean liners.

Aalto was able to bridge both Nordic and Continental thought in his work, evolving an international design vocabulary that was primarily Finnish in inspiration.

Unlike many architectural champions of the era, Aalto always exposed a "human side" in his work.

The Danish critic Poul Henningsen had observed that bent-metal chairs Aalto designed for an early 1930s Sanatorium project in Finland were "apt to give the modernly dressed woman a cramp in the thigh," so Aalto developed innovative wood-bending techniques that allowed him to design wooden furniture that was both modern and "human" because it was warm to the touch, while being totally Finnish in its craftsman's use of the country's major national resource, wood.



AALTO built for himself a brick-and-wood summer home whose forms echo the surrounding Nordic landscape.

Richard Weston writes: "Throughout his career, Aalto was internationally thought of as the 'humaniser' and 'naturaliser' of a cold, overly rational modern architecture."

Also a painter, Aalto often combined painting techniques with architecture.

Weston continues: "Collage techniques became dominant in the design of the Villa Mairea (1937-40), commissioned by the wealthy industrialists Harry and Maire Gullichsen. It may well have been Maire's encouragement that pushed Aalto in this direction—she had studied painting in Paris in the 1920s, and assembled one of the best private collections of modern art in Finland—and the collage technique enabled him to respond brilliantly to his clients' request for a house that was both modern and unmistakably Finnish.

"The result was an astonishing, unprecedented composition in which sleek columns jostle with rough stone steps, grass roofs rest on concrete beams, stripped logs float on slender steel posts, weatherboarding rises behind teak cladding. Architecture had seen nothing like it, and in weaker hands it could easily have lapsed into shallow eclecticism.

"As in a pictorial collage, each element brought associations from the 'real world' into architecture. The house evokes memories of Finnish farmsteads, medieval churches, Functionalist architecture, Hollywood (the sauna had a California-inspired kidney-shaped plunge pool). The natural finishes, associated since the 1950s as quintessentially Scandinavian, were originally seen in 1930s Finland as Japanese-influenced."

The radical development of all came in the Villa Mairea interior, visualized as an abstraction of a Finnish forest. Black steel columns wrapped with rattan evoke the peeling bark and golden core of pine trees. Others are clad with birch strips, doubled and trebled to suggest the variety of nature. Wooden poles screening the stair and entrance open and close abstract vistas as one walks around.

Villa Mairea is modern architecture that resonates with the Finnish landscape and culture.

Aalto's Finnish version of modern architecture provides inspiration and challenge for contemporary architects in search of cultural grounding in today's globalized society.

The recently concluded Aalto exhibition, organized by the Embassy of Finland and the Aalto Museum at Jyväskylä in Finland, traced the development of the Aalto philosophy through his residential architecture designed during his long career spanning 1923-1970.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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Museum Foundation holds Sunico concert

RAUL Sunico

THE MUSEUM Foundation of the Philippines (MFP), Friends of Manansala Foundation, and Lopez Memorial Museum are holding "The Advent Concert," featuring piano great Raul Sunico, on Nov. 25, 8 p.m., at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

The concert celebrates the 10th anniversary of the MFP.

Sunico, who is also dean of the Conservatory of Music of University of Santo Tomas, will be joined by soprano Rachelle Gerodias, tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, and the 78-member UST Youth Wind Orchestra.

Earlier, at 6:30 p.m., "Discovering Manansala," by Isabel Nazareno, and "A Sourcebook to the Museum of the Filipino People," edited by Ma. Elena Locsin, will be launched.

For tickets to the concert, call 4043685.

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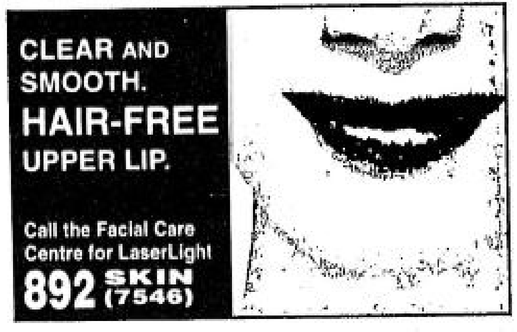
VIOLIN prodigies in concert /E2



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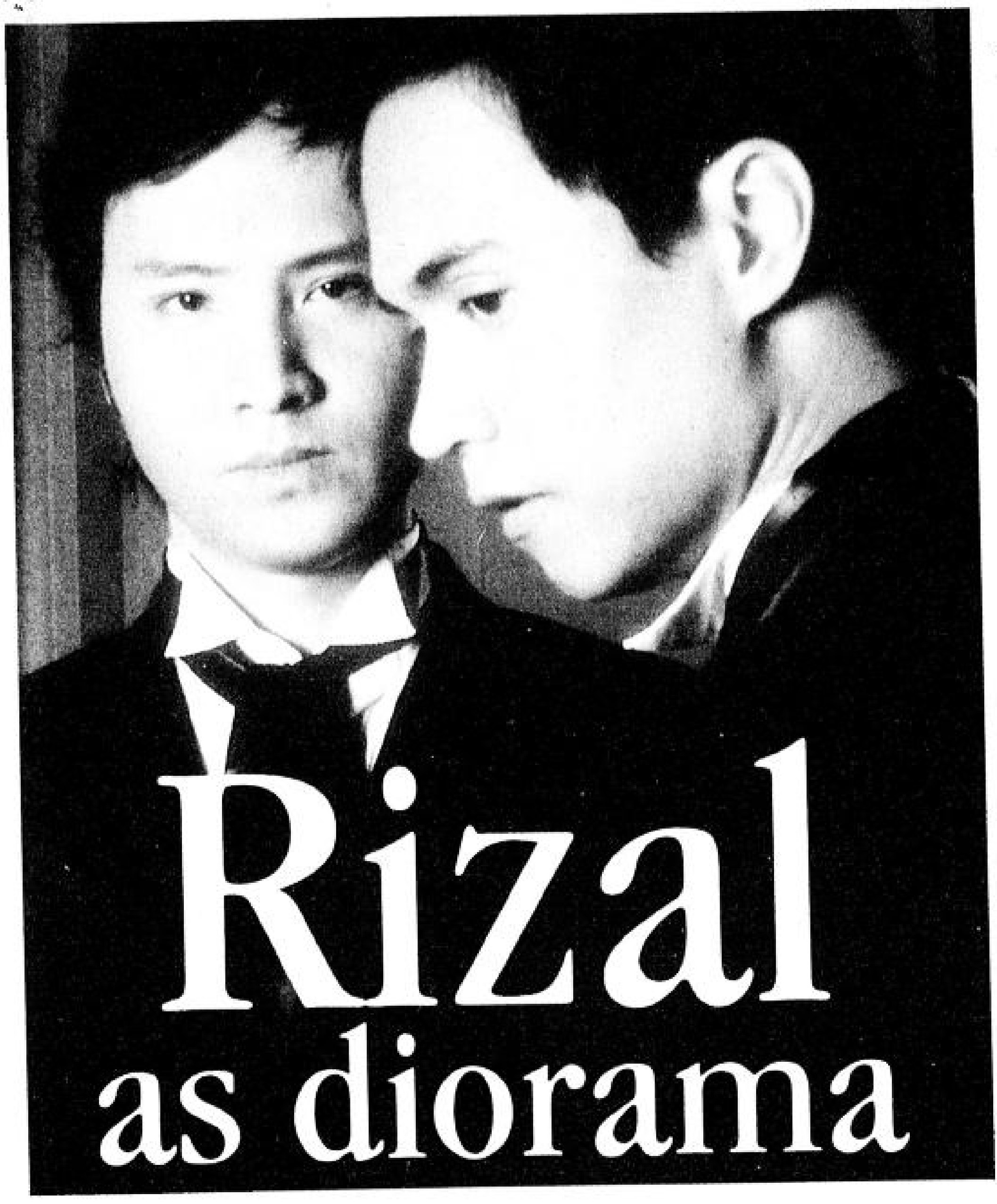

JON Joven and Arnold Reyes alternate as Crisostomo Ibarra.

Rizal as diorama

'Noli Me Tangere' the musical and 'El Filibusterismo' the straight play are of a piece in more ways than one

By Gibbs Cadiz

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A PLAY TO fail because of bad scenery?

Tanghalang Pilipino's ongoing production of the Ryan Cayabyab-Bienvenido Lumbera musical "Noli Me Tangere" is an object lesson in the folly of putting visual spectacle ahead of pretty much everything else in a stage work.

There it is, Clint E.B. Ramos' monstrosity of a set, a church façade in white undulating downwards like a tsunami. Made of coconut planks lashed together to form some sort of sloping raft, the ungainly crests and valleys of this giant wave serve as upstage and downstage areas for the actors to claim and fill in. But that's like saying Ahab merely goes on a leisurely whale-spotting spree in "Moby Dick."

Postmodernists and deconstructionists may want to rush to the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater to divine the meaning of Ramos' showboating creation. An illustration of the "bajo de la campana" (under the church bells) social construct of the Spanish era, in which colonial towns typically radiated from the parish church? A figuration of the reach and perfidy of ecclesiastical influence during that period? A commentary on social stratification, with each descending crest representing a lower station in life?

Minimal benefits

However one teases out the purpose or implication of this visually staggering design, one thing is clear by the end of "Noli Me Tangere." It is a set that clamorously calls attention to itself, but with minimal practical or aesthetic benefit to the show. Worse, it ends up fatally undercutting the performers and the entire production at every turn.

"Noli," a sung-through musical that clocks at nearly three hours, features Cayabyab melodies that, for lack of a better term, may be called the equivalent of free verse in music—highly lyrical but loose and unstructured. The notes flow on like a stream, rarely looping back to form hummable or easy-to-remember verses.

Because the director, Paul Morales, has (inexplicably) decided not to employ lapel mikes for this "Noli," the show has to bank on singing actors with the requisite vocal command and stamina to carry the drama beyond the footlights.

RIZAL/ E3

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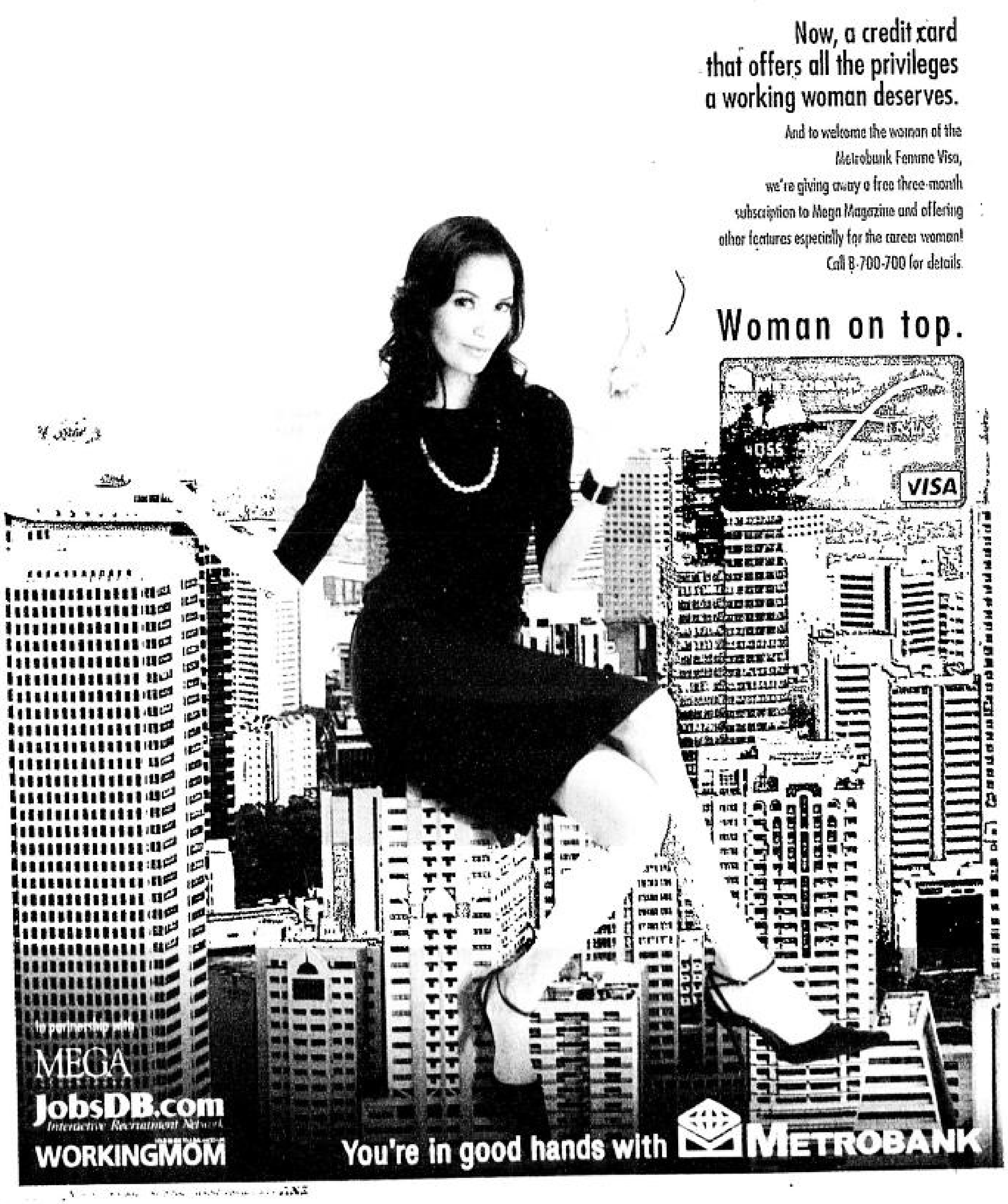

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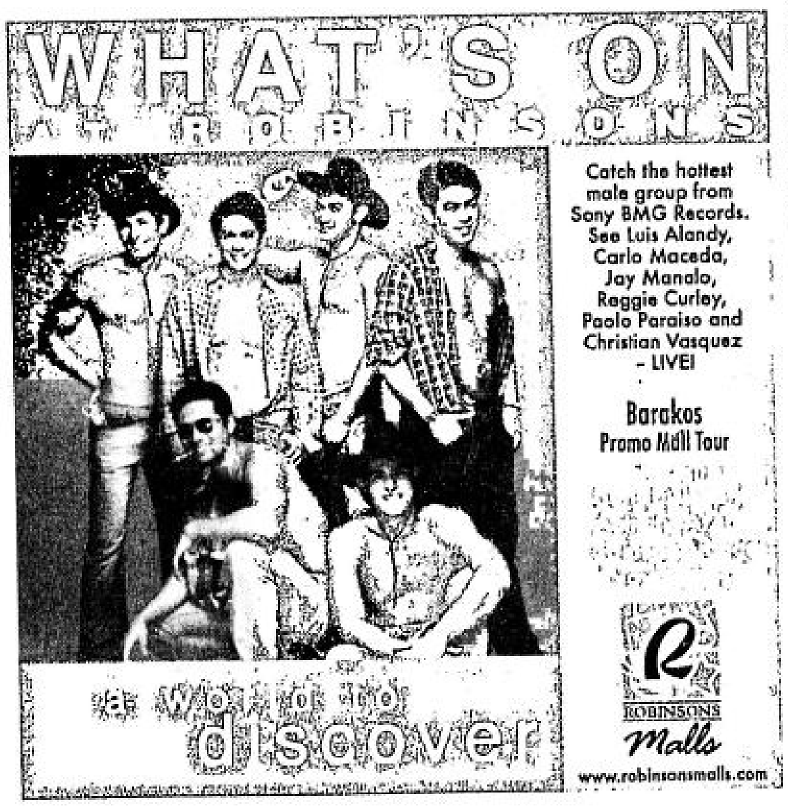

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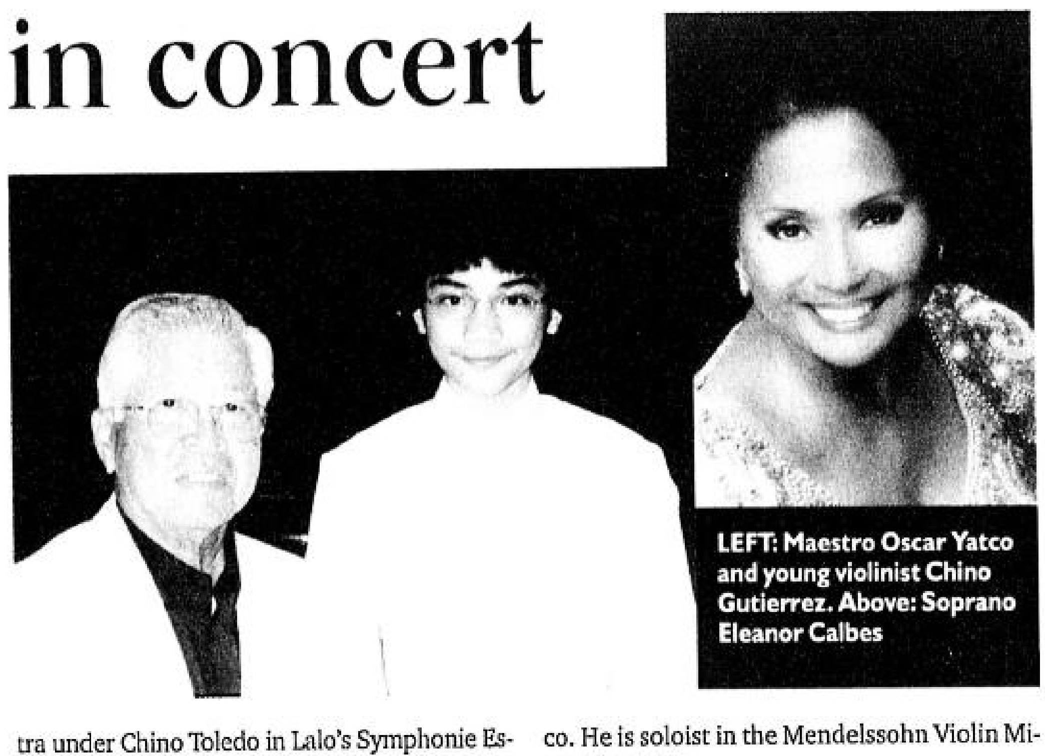
Two generations of violin prodigies in concert

By Pablo A. Tariman


LEFT: Maestro Oscar Yatco and young violinist Chino Gutierrez. Above: Soprano Eleanor Calbes

THE RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE hosted by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra for Maestro Oscar Yatco and young violinist Chino Gutierrez was a clear study of violinists from two generations.

Both are certified prizewinners. Both have excelled not just in music but also in other fields.

Yatco finished a Music Teacher's Diploma at 16 and won prizes not just in Manila but in Europe as well.

The young Gutierrez bested several candidates for the limited scholarship slot at the Munich State Academy of Music after winning the National Music Competitions for Young Artists in Manila. He also excels in Math and Latin!

For the first time, I learned Yatco was a prizewinner of the ARD Music Competition in Munich, which has also been won by the late baritone Aurelio Estanislao.

The last winner of this competition is none other than tenor Otoniel Gonzaga, who will perform with Lea Salonga in a special PPO concert on Jan. 25, 2006, at the CCP.

An unlikely coincidence: Both Yatco and Gutierrez played the Mendelssohn violin concerto at age 15!

The conductor said being labeled a prodigy was no big deal for him. "The label didn't mean anything to me. I just worked hard, studied hard and practiced a lot and that brought me to where I wanted to go in music," he said.

Gutierrez said he learned to live the German way and acquired German discipline. "I wake up at 6:30 in the morning, take breakfast and get ready for school. By 7:30, I am out of the house. I walk to the U-Bahn [subway] station to the city center and then take the bus that stops in front of my high school, the Pestalozzi Gymnasium. Classes begin at 8:15. A regular school day has about six or seven subjects at 45 minutes each.

"I am off at 1:05 p.m. If I happen to have a lesson with my teacher, Prof. Ellerman, I start warming up at three for my lesson at five. After a walk at the English Gardens, which is near our place, I do my homework, computer work or projects. Then I try to get in several hours of practice till dinner time. In our apartment building, one is not allowed to make 'noise' past 8 p.m."

I first heard Joaquin Maria Gutierrez (Chino to his friends) some years back when he was a soloist of the Metro Manila Community Orchestra under Chino Toledo in Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole. It was a very impressive performance for the then nine-year-old fiddler.

I heard him again two years later with the same orchestra playing Saint-Saens's Introduction et Rondo Capriccioso and Abelardo's Cavatina.

The boy at that time was undergoing some refinement. He was most impressive playing a movement from Beethoven's Sonata No. 8 in G Major, op. 30, and another movement from a Bruch concerto in one edition of the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya). He won second prize in the first Namcya and became the top winner the next time.

Is the prodigy decided on music as a career?

"The fact that I left my studies at the Philippine Science High School shows how serious I am about pursuing a career as a concert violinist. Yes, I would like to do this for myself as well as for my country. After having made it to Germany, passed the tough auditions at the state academy and fared pretty well so far, I supposed I am on the right track. However, I intend to keep on working on my other loves—math, physics, computer, history, languages. I am inspired by the likes of Raul Sunico, who is both pianist and mathematician, and Midori, who got her psychology degree despite having a busy concert schedule. I know of many other successful musicians who are also biologists, computer experts, ambassadors, etc. I'm sure it is possible and I'll just be one more proof that it can be done."

Gutierrez will be heard tomorrow 8 p.m. at Philamlife Theater with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Prof. Yatco. He is soloist in the Mendelssohn Violin Minor Concerto.

* * *

Voice connoisseurs should not miss this week the special recital of Canada-based soprano Eleanor Calbes with pianist Raul Sunico, also at Philamlife Theater.

Apart form her program of art songs, opera and *kundiman*, La Calbes will have duets with baritone Noel Azcona ("Rigoletto" and "Porgy and Bess"). Guest flutist GJ Herman Gomez will render a movement from Schubert's Sonata Arpeggione and Parungao's "Panagimpan."

In Manila, Calbes was last heard in Bizet's "Pearl Fishers" at the Manila Metropolitan Theater and Francisco Feliciano's "La Loba Negra" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

In Canada, Calbes' last opera role was Cio Cio San with the Opera Mississauga.

The concert this week is sponsored by the Philam Life, Canadian Embassy and City Government of Manila under Mayor Lito Atienza, who will host a post-concert reception.

Calbes will also also perform in Tuguegarao City on Nov. 29 with soprano Delicia Asimont and pianist Jonathan Coo; and in Aparri, Cagayan, on Nov. 30.

Meanwhile, more than half of the orchestra section of the CCP Main Theater is already sold out for the Jan. 25, 2006, concert of Lea Salonga and tenor Otoniel Gonzaga with the PPO under Julian Quirit.

For inquiries on the Nov. 25 concert at Philamlife and the Jan. 25, 2006 Salonga-Gonzaga gala at the CCP, call 9017156 or cell 0910-8851136.

PATRICIA Hermosa as Masha with Marcus Tolentino as Drosselmeyer, with Ballet Manila students

Ballet Manila stages 'Nutcracker' as Christmas treat

WHEN THE FAMILIAR strains of Tchaikovsky reverberate through Aliw Theater's vast hall, and dancing snowflakes and the Sugar Plum Fairy prance about with giant mice and a handsome prince—you know it's Christmas and it's time for "The Nutcracker!"

Ballet Manila brings its annual showing of "The Nutcracker," a two-act ballet about a little girl named Masha, whose generous spirit on Christmas Eve leads her to experience a wonderful land where giant dolls and a Nutcracker Prince come to life.

"The Nutcracker" is a family must-see this Christmas. This year's production is bigger—with a cast of more than a hundred dancers which include very young students from the Ballet Manila School.

DANICA Rili as Masha and Marcus Tolentino as Drosselmeyer

Performances are on Nov. 25-27; Dec. 2-3 at Aliw Theater, Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard. Artistic director is Lisa Macuja-Elizalde with artistic associate Osias Barroso.

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Spanish organist topbills San Agustin Music Festival

RENOWNED SPANISH ORGANIST JOSÉ Luis Echechipia leads the roster of classical artists in the 7th San Agustin International Music Festival at San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila, Nov. 22-24.

The Barcelona-based musician opens the Festival on Nov. 22 as he plays Baroque pieces especially composed for the 18th-century pipe organ. He will also perform a duo number with Reynato Resurreccion Jr., principal oboist of Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

The multi-awarded University of Santo Tomas Singers, under the direction of professor Fidel Calalang, performs on the second part of the concert with its rendition of works by Edward Grieg edited by John Rutter, Franz Biebi, Morten Laurisden, Z. Randall Stroope, Hubertus Weinier, Ryan Cayabyab and two Negro Spirituals by Moses Hogan.

On Nov. 23, Echechipia and Resurreccion return to render a different set of classical compositions for organ and oboe. For the second part, the Philippine Children's Choir from Mandaluyong, directed by Sebastian Trinidad, premieres sacred works by Filipino composer Alejandro Consolacion.

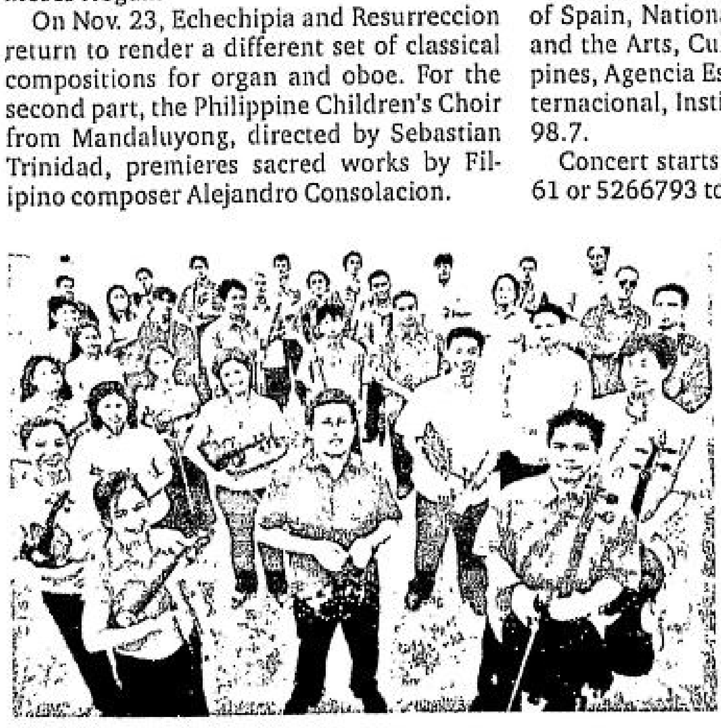
The three-day festival draws to a close on Nov. 24 with a performance at the organ by Echechipia, followed by the Ateneo College Glee Club and the MSO Chamber Orchestra conducted by professor Malou Hermo, performing John Rutter's "Magnificat" in celebration of the forthcoming Yuletide. Featured soloist is soprano Katrina Saporsantos.

According to Fr. Pedro Galende, OSA, director of the San Agustin Museum, the music festival was started in 1998 to highlight the magnificence of the small *realejo* 18th-century Baroque organ, brought from Spain, rebuilt in Manila in 1810-14, and fully restored in 1998.

Since then, classical artists from here and abroad have performed on the organ to foster public appreciation of classical music, especially organ music.

The festival is supported by the Embassy of Spain, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional, Instituto Cervantes, and DZFE-98.7.

Concert starts at 8 p.m. Call 5274060 to 61 or 5266793 to 94.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Rizal as diorama

From page E1

But on top of acting out technically demanding songs, "Noli's" performers have to contend with a wholly unnecessary, even hazardous, problem. The uneven set on which they move provides no steady footing. Their movements are cramped, wavering, always in search of balance.

In transitioning between scenes, the ensemble's exits become irritating processions—trudging downwards first, ever careful not to lose traction and fall splat, before managing to bail out of the set. On the night we watched, Maria Clara tripped and fell, letting out a lusty "Aaaay!" to close Act 2.

Stirring

There is only one moment when the white elephant justifies itself. Near the end, as Ibarra tells Elias that revolution is not the answer, armed "masa" appear from the top and march forward, suggesting waves of freedom fighters inexorably surging toward the light. It's quite a sight, stirring and cinematic.

WOWIE de Guzman as Simoun in "Fili"

At this late point, however, it's been a long slog for the actors and their breathless audience. A number of performers survive the gauntlet through a combination of strong voices, perceptive acting and sheer willpower: Jon Joven as Ibarra (a thrilling tenor), Rody Vera (Padre Damaso), Nazer Salcedo (Padre Salvi, stunningly repellent), Deeda Barretto (Tiya Isabel), Cynthia Culig-Guico (Sisa), Paolo Rodriguez and Lionel Guico (alternating as Elias).

Arnold Reyes, who did a star turn in Dulaang UP's "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos," gives a charming, vigorous performance as an alternate Ibarra, but his pop voice is defeated by the score. Don Tiburcio and Doña Victorina, meanwhile, remain in assuredly campy hands, with Garry Lim and Tess Jamias and Estanislao Alinea and Catherine Racsag doing their shrilly takes on these roles.

As a musical, "Noli" is, finally, an aural failure, unable to wrap the theater in the aching sweetness of Cayabyab's music or the sonorousness of Lumbera's language.

In lieu of an orchestra, one teeny piano accompanies the show. Can one more piano make a difference? Who knows, with that extravagant tsunami of a set displacing everything else?

("Noli Mi Tangere" runs until Dec. 4. Call 8323661 or 8321125 local 1620.)

Anomaly

While TP's "Noli" fumbles with a dead-weight set, Gantimpala Theater's production of the play "El Filibusterismo" is beset by a more common but no less consequential anomaly: bad casting.

Don Simoun, that seething cauldron of twisted motives who sports black dragonfly spectacles and suspiciously well-off threads as he goes about his malevolent designs, is played by an actor of striking depth and astuteness, as befits Rizal's most complex character.

No, we're kidding. The part is played by Wowie de Guzman.

Why director Soxie Topacio would see Simoun in De Guzman is one of those head-scratching enigmas that make our theater-going lives more, uhurm, interesting. De Guzman has proven himself a sensitive actor in many a TV melodrama, and he deserves credit for embracing theater with persuasive seriousness.

Two hours spent watching "El Fili," though, is enough to warrant the conclusion that De Guzman has bitten off more than he can chew with Simoun. As an actor, his biggest liability is his voice. High, nasal, juvenile, it trivializes even the weightiest of lines (surely without De Guzman meaning to), and reduces Simoun to a snivelling, unreflective brat.

This is a pity, because Rizal's "El Fili" is a work that demands careful thought and reassessment every time. Unlike "Noli," which is essentially a plot-driven (and rather convoluted) novel, "El Fili" contains Rizal's most far-reaching reflections on the many issues that had preoccupied his life and work: freedom and sovereignty, education for liberation, anarchy and its place in the struggle, undying love, sacrifice for country.

Imagine all these ruminations issuing forth from a Simoun who looks not a day older than Isagani or Basilio and sounds even less resolute. Whether in argument or repartee, De Guzman's Simoun is a woefully unconvincing reactionary-cum-proto-revolutionary. With him pacing the show, "El Fili" becomes a fancy exercise in play-acting, a diorama come to life without subtext or conviction.

Heartbreaking

But for every De Guzman, there is an actor like Soliman Cruz, who is excellent as Padre Florentino. His closing soliloquy—*"Nasaan kayo, mga kabataan?"*—spoken as a plea to an audience of high-school students, is heartbreaking in its eloquence.

The power of Rizal's exhortation to the youth to continue his patriotic work has been eroded through indifference and rote exposure. But in Cruz's Padre Florentino, surveying the wreckage of Simoun's life and his star-crossed stab at happiness for himself and his country, the words ring majestically, like a summons to arms.

This is the magic of acting—the ability to resurrect a text and make it sound as fresh as the morning of Creation.

"El Fili's" large cast, moving through a set consisting of ramps of varying height (designed by Roobak Valle), grapples with the play's gravity and sense of self-importance with disparate success.

A SCENE from Gantimpala's "El Filibusterismo"

Roeder Camanag (Kabesang Tales), Kimberly Diaz (Juli), Perry Dizon (Tata Selo), Pamela Hundana (Hermana Penchang) and Joel Molina (Basilio) are competent in their roles, but none of them rises to the level of Cruz. The rest seem content to let their costumes do the talking.

("El Filibusterismo" runs until Nov. 26. Call 8995745 or 8963503.)

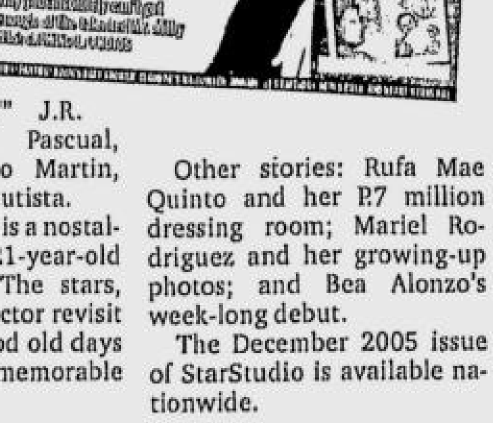
Cliches

The next time a local theater group deigns to stage "Noli" or "El Fili," perhaps it should give a thought about retiring a couple of increasingly tiresome gimmicks.

How about ditching the plastic crocodile in "Noli's" boating episode? And the next time an actress tries to turn Doña Victorina into Doña Buding, slap her down and tell her there were no drag queens yet in Rizal's time.

Email the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

Sam Milby and other hunks in StarStudio



STARSTUDIO Magazine's December features an exclusive sexy pictorial of ex-"Pinoy Big Brother" housemate Sam Milby, as photographed by Raymund Isaac. The mag reports on Sam's growing-up years in Ohio, what he looks for in women, and his plans.

Others in sexy pictorials are "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros'" J.R. Valentin, Piolo Pascual, "Masahista's" Coco Martin, and singer Mark Bautista.

Also in this issue is a nostalgia piece on the 21-year-old movie, "Bagets." The stars, the writer and director revisit the set and the good old days of one of the most memorable youth films ever.

Other stories: Rufa Mae Quinto and her P7 million dressing room; Mariel Rodriguez and her growing-up photos; and Bea Alonzo's week-long debut.

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UST pays tribute to Nick Joaquin

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS is holding a series of lectures on the literary legacy of the late National Artist Nick Joaquin this week.

The lectures are in connection with UST's tribute to Joaquin.

UST opened an exhibit on "The Life and Legacy of Nick Joaquin" at the UST Central Library Bldg. last Nov. 15, when the Joaquin family formally turned over to the Pontifical University the library of the late writer. The exhibit runs for a month.

THE NATIONAL Artist in a familiar pose. PDI PHOTO

The UST Graduate School Academic Theater has toured its production of Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as a Filipino" around the country and in the United States.

Joaquin first achieved literary renown when he won the essay contest by the Dominicans on the history of and devotion to Our Lady of La Naval. The winning entry, "La Naval de Manila," has become a highly anthologized essay.

Joaquin subsequently entered the seminary of the Dominicans in Hong Kong, but left to write full-time. UST later gave him an Associate in Arts degree.

Before he died, Joaquin donated his National Artist medallion to the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Naval at the Santo Domingo Church. The medallion is on display in the UST exhibit, on loan from the Santo Domingo fathers.

UST rector Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P., (right) is assisted by the Joaquin family in opening the exhibit: Rosario Joaquin-Villegas, Carmen Joaquin-Villegas and Antonio Joaquin. PAUL JASON JAUD

The lectures:

"Nick Joaquin as Poet and Fictionist," by Ophelia Dimalanta; Nov. 22, 10 a.m., lecture hall, UST Library

"Nick Joaquin as a Dramatist," by Isagani Cruz; Nov. 23, 10 a.m., lecture hall, UST Library

"Dramatic Reading of Nick Joaquin's Works," directed by José Victor Torres; Nov. 23, 2 p.m., UST Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

"Nick Joaquin as Journalist," by Lito Zulueta (details to be announced later).

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Throw a hearty party with the Goldilocks Party Fun Feast.

Now that the holidays are fast approaching, upcoming celebrations need not be a hassle with the Party Funfeast package from Goldilocks Foodshop. Catering to the true Filipino taste, Goldilocks presents this delicious meal package, which includes all time favorites like Pork Barbeque, Lumpiang Shanghai, Beef Caldereta, Chicken Barbeque, Golden Chicken, Rellenong Bangus, Fresh Lumpia, and various dessert options.

"The Party Funfeast is very much aligned to the values that Goldilocks has been identified with", said Ms. Mauie Tamsi, Marketing Manager for Foodshop Operations. "It implies a gathering of family and friends, celebrating good times. All this in an affordable, worry-free, and absolutely delicious package", she added.

The convenience of the Party Funfeast may be the most obvious benefit for hosts, but its taste will surely impress the guests. "Our Party Funfeast menu includes our all-time best sellers", Ms. Tamsi noted. "These are the dishes that have allowed Goldilocks Foodshop to have a permanent place in the hearts of Filipino diners", she explained.

To learn more about the Party Funfeast package, visit your nearest Goldilocks Foodshop. For a minimum purchase of P2,000 worth of Party Funfeast products, customers are entitled to free Goldilocks goodiest.

Goldilocks
BAKESHOP • FOODSHOP
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Funfeast
Order now at your favorite Goldilocks foodshop.

Handa Na Ang Pasko!

Spaghetti • Lumpiang Shanghai • Chicken BBQ • Leche Flan • Mocha Roll • Black Forest • Brownies Galore • Crema De Fruta

Bawat order, good for 12-15 people.